

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 27, 2014

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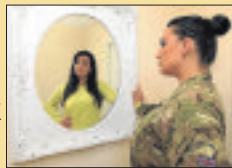
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## Glam gunner

From army assault course to the catwalk

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## Star shots

Unique snaps relive the rock 'n' roll years

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## Probe on drug after internet buyer dies

A GOVERNMENT minister has promised to investigate a morphine-like drug after the death of a Cradley Heath father who bought the substance to help him sleep.

Computer technician Jason Nock, aged 41, of High Haden Road, died in August after taking a fatal dose of the legal drug AH-7921, which he had bought on the internet.

Senior Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain wrote to the Home Office urging an investigation after concluding the death was as a result of an accident.

Mr Nock was found with almost five times a fatal dose in his body.

Crime prevention minister Norman Baker MP said AH-7921 will be investigated by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, which will present its findings in the spring.

He told Mr Balmain in a letter that the Government shared his concerns over the 'unregulated sale' of AH-7921 and had called in independent experts.

Mr Baker wrote: "Action to restrict new psychoactive substance supply is a priority for UK law enforcement and other regulatory agencies.

"We know there is more to be done in this area."

## Cannabis is discovered

MORE than 590 cannabis plants have been found growing on three floors of a disused shop in Cradley Heath.

Officers were called after reports of a break-in at the premises.

Police got inside the store and discovered a cannabis factory spread across five rooms.

Hydroponics equipment was found inside the building in Reddall Hill Road on Tuesday morning.

In total, 593 plants were found.

# FREE PARKING AT MERRY HILL VOW

**THE new owners of Merry Hill shopping centre have pledged to keep free car parking.**

That could lead to a row with Dudley Council, which has made it clear it will not permit any expansion of Merry Hill without parking charges being imposed.

Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks said: "If there is to be an expansion of Merry Hill beyond its existing planning permits then charges have to be introduced."

But Mike Butterworth, chief operating officer of new owners Intu, said: "We are committed to maintaining that free car parking. It's very important to the centre that we make it easy for people to get there and free parking is part of that."

### Ambitious

It currently offers 10,000 free spaces at the Brierley Hill mall complex.

Property firm Intu will run Merry Hill after buying the half share previously owned by Westfield for £407.7 million last week.

"It has ambitious plans to increase leisure and restaurant facilities to make Merry Hill more of a family day out destination.

After spending his early years in and around Wolverhampton, Mr Butterworth is no stranger to the Black Country and the Merry Hill centre.

But he is aware that Intu has a job ahead of it to bring Merry Hill up to the standard of the UK's top shopping centres.

"I used to live in Wolverhampton so I've become pretty familiar with Merry Hill over the years.

"I think it's certainly true that Merry Hill used to be better than it is today.

### Report by Andrew Turton

"I think there are things that can be done to the leisure and catering areas to make it a lot more attractive as a family day out, which is what we are after.

"We see Merry Hill as joining a stable that includes the Trafford Centre, Lakeside in West Thurrock, Sheffield's Metro Centre."

He added: "It is early days yet, and we are still working out the details but talking to the council is the first thing on our list, followed by the retailers."

Meanwhile, parking spaces will be created in Dudley town centre following demands from traders.

The former Stone Street car park was transformed into a public square a decade ago in an £800,000 project but traders have long called for the return of spaces in that part of town, saying footfall has suffered.

The council has announced plans for 10 new on-street parking spaces adjacent to Stone Street Square.

That comes just a few weeks after the council announced it will borrow money to build a £2.5 million multi-storey car park with 250 spaces in nearby Tower Street.

## Chancellor's vow on manufacturing skills



George Osborne visits the factory with Cube boss Neil Clifton, left, and James Morris MP

CHANCELLOR George Osborne vowed to help inspire school leavers to join the 'home of manufacturing' in the West Midlands while visiting a Rowley Regis firm.

The message that his budget was for the 'makers and doers' was top of the agenda as the Chancellor of the Exchequer spoke to bosses at one firm announcing new jobs and more trade on global markets.

Cube Precision Engineering Ltd, in Cakemore Road, supplies tools to Jaguar Land Rover, which is among the businesses heralded by the Chancellor for leading a manufacturing recovery.

Cube Precision Engineering, named young business of the year in the Express & Star Business Awards 2013, wants to create 10 new engineering positions.

Mr Osborne said he hoped ambitious youngsters in the Black Country would want to join similar successful businesses. He called on schools and colleges to bridge the skills gap.

"If the kids in the schools could see the quality of the work being done, the exciting future that a business like this has, then there would be even more doing the necessary skills," he said, visiting on Tuesday with Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

He added: "We have got to make sure that kids have that ambition to be part of our manufacturing success story and that our schools and colleges are giving them the right skills."

## Scheme to build 80 homes near canal

UP to 80 homes could be built on the edge of Stourbridge town centre after outline proposals were submitted to planners.

Quadrant Land Partnership wants permission to create the development on land at Lowndes Road and Bradley Road, near Stourbridge canal.

Council officers have recommended outline plans be approved subject to conditions, when they are discussed by Dudley Council's development control committee on Monday.

The houses would be built on a six-hectare stretch of land near to the historic Foster and Rastrick foundry, which is being converted and refurbished into a medical centre.

Details of the layout of the development and the style of the new homes would be the subject of a further planning application in the future.

Council officials said 77 letters had been sent out to neighbouring properties.

One response has been received from Vee Bee Ltd, a company near the site. They requested information on the implications for noises at their premises, so it does not jeopardize future operations at the firm.

Part of the River Stour is within the site and would be engineered to make it a better habitat for wildlife.



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# Boost for anti-waste site campaign

LEADERS of a campaign against a waste plant have been given a role in a planning inquiry which will decide on the controversial project.

Members of Brierley Hill SNOW (Say NO to Waste site) say the granting of full party status at the inquiry is a 'big step forward' in their campaign.

It will mean the group will be able to put their case forward to of-

ficers from the Planning Inspectorate, who will decide at the hearing in June if the waste scheme goes ahead.

## Appealed

The proposal by Clean Powers Properties for a plant off Moor Street in Brierley Hill. The scheme was thrown out by Dudley Council, but the firm has since appealed.

Last week SNOW submitted 761 letters and a petition with 309 signatures against the plan.

They fear the proposals, if they get the go-ahead, will cause a smell and create traffic chaos.

But the firm deny this and say it will create jobs

Campaign spokesman Tim Lee, 63, of Seagers Lane, said: "It's a really big step forward. We will now

be able to cross-examine Clean Power's witnesses, and to fully address the inspector.

"We believe that being allowed full party status will give us the best opportunity to present the community's case."

The campaign group is putting the finishing touches to its formal statement.

# Anger as show snubs fans' Astle tribute

THE daughter of Baggies legend Jeff Astle has spoken of her 'disgust' after BBC's Match of the Day failed to mention a tribute by fans supporting the Albion legend's family.

Albion fans applauded in the ninth minute as a show of support for the family of Hawthorns hero Astle during the defeat at Hull City.

Mr Astle died in 2002, aged 59, from brain damage which

a coroner concluded was sustained through heading leather footballs during his glittering football career.

His family have launched a campaign, called Justice for Jeff, calling for the FA to accept that the father-of-three suffered brain damage and to launch research into the effects of heading footballs. The FA promised a 10-year study after his inquest but nothing has yet been published.

Users of a mental health support service have held a protest against plans for its closure.

Dove House is based on the grounds of Dudley's Bushey Fields Hospital, which is staffed and supported by independent mental health charity Dudley Mind. The centre provides a range of day activities and also serves as a meeting place.

But earlier this month charity bosses said the service will shut from mid-May, and a new programme called Empowering Recovery in the Community will start there on June 1.

Regular users staged a protest outside the centre last Thursday. They have also organised a petition, calling for it to be kept open as it is, which they plan to hand to Dudley Council.

Drop-in facilities will continue to run at other locations, such as community centres, and peer support groups will be started. A weekly advice and support surgery is also going to be offered for people who might otherwise have raised their concerns with the drop-in staff. But current users say the proposed services will not meet their needs.

## Clapped

Around 2,400 travelling fans clapped in the ninth minute in honour of the number 9 shirt 'the King' wore for the Baggies, showing support for the campaign. A banner was also unfurled by the fans.

But the action was not mentioned on Match of the Day. On Twitter, Mr Astle's daughter Claire said: "Disgusted. Too afraid of @FA or just too busy with the weather at Hull? My dad died! How many others?"

The striker scored 174 goals in 361 games for Albion, including the winner in the 1968 FA Cup final. He played five times for England.

Last week, the FA released a statement seeming to apologise to the Astle family for not contacting them about the research's progress and saying it 'deeply regretted any upset caused'. Mr Astle's daughters Dawn and Claire, however, insisted the FA had not contacted them to pass that message on.

## Going to pains to aid charity



Richard Sharratt, (right) and wife Charlotte with Sarah Bird and pub owner Rupp Bains

THE parents of a girl who was just two weeks old when she died have pledged to raise funds to help neo-natal units at hospitals across the Midlands.

Libby Mae Sharratt was born last April at Birmingham Women's Hospital to the joy of her parents Richard and Charlotte. But soon after she arrived in the world Libby began suffering breathing problems and was rushed into intensive care.

Just days later, after she had been transferred to Birmingham Children's Hospital,

doctors had to break the tragic news she was suffering from a rare heart condition. She died last May in her parents' arms.

The couple have vowed to keep her memory alive by setting up a charity to help raise cash to help hospitals care for youngsters and families in similar situations.

The charity Libby Mae's Little Angels has already held a host of different fundraisers. Bosses at The Full Moon pub, in Halesowen, held a waxing day earlier this month and raised more than £1,500.

# More cash going to maternity services

HOSPITALS in the Midlands are to get over £1 million to improve maternity units.

It comes after a baby boom in the region has seen health chiefs having to cope with thousands of extra births in recent years.

Russell's Hall Hospital, part of the Dudley Groups of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, will get a £41,000 to improve the care of women with mental health problems and those with sick babies or experiencing bereavement.

Other hospital trusts in the region which will receive extra funding include Birmingham Women's NHS foundation Trust which will receive £155,756 to enhance the midwife-led unit and delivery suite areas.

New Cross in Wolverhampton is receiving £12,000 to upgrade facilities which supports counselling.

A total of £10 million has been earmarked by the Government to 63 NHS trusts across the country.

Maternity Minister Dr Dan Poulter said: "Making sure families receive a good experience when having a baby in NHS maternity units is a top priority for me, as both a doctor and a health minister."

## Easter fun at leisure centre

DUDLEY Leisure Centre is hosting activity sessions for children aged eight to 14 during the Easter holiday

On April 15, 17, 22 and 24 there is a junior active zone including dance mats, video games, T-shirt design, crafts, swimming and team games. Sessions must be pre-booked, and run from 9am to 4pm, costing £15. Youngsters should bring a packed lunch and refreshments. Children can join pool sessions with inflatables on April 15-17, 22-24 at 1.45, costing £2.50. Call 01384 812800 or see [www.dudley.gov.uk/sport website](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/sport website).

## Farage speech

UKIP leader Nigel Farage is to speak at a public meeting at Dudley Town Hall.

He will be speaking on April 25 at the ticket-only event ahead of the European elections. The event starts at 7.30pm and will involve speeches from the party's other local candidates.

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# Decision is due on college's crossing

A CROSSING which would be used by hundreds of college students every day has been earmarked for approval, despite concerns from residents.

Plans have been submitted by Dudley College for the puffin crossing to be installed along The Broadway, Dudley, between the college's new Evolve campus and The Broadway campus.

## Route

Dudley Council's development control committee will discuss the scheme on Monday.

They deferred making a decision in January for more information to be gathered on the impact a crossing along the busy route.

The college wants the crossing in place to provide a safe pedestrian route for students and staff.

But 10 objections had been received from residents living nearby. They are concerned the crossing would disrupt the flow of traffic along the Broadway and say students should instead be encouraged to use existing crossings.

In a report to the committee, officers said the crossing would not have any impact on the character of the area or homes nearby.

# On track for model show

MODEL railway enthusiasts will make tracks to a an event in Stourbridge.

Stourbridge Navigation Trust and Stourbridge Railway Society will be joining forces for the town's annual Model Railway Exhibition which will be held at The Bonded Warehouse, Canal Street, Stourbridge, over the weekend of April 12 and 13. There will be around 12 layouts on show.

Admission is £3 for adults, £2 for children and OAPs, and a family ticket is available for two adults and two children priced at £9. There will also be boat trips on the canal.

## Singer in concert

HUSKY-VOICED singer/songwriter Jack Savoretti is in concert at Wolverhampton Slade Rooms on Monday. The 30-year-old from London featured movie star Sienna Miller on his third and latest album Before The Storm. Tickets cost £13.20. Call 0870 320 7000.

# Drinking session led to accidental death



Stumbled — Darren Smart

A MAN who was out drinking died after stumbling into the road and being struck by a recovery vehicle.

Senior Coroner Robin Balmain concluded at Smethwick Coroners Court that Darren Smart, of King Street, Dudley, was killed in a road traffic collision.

Mr Smart, described by his sister as 'the life and soul of the party', was said to have such high levels of alcohol in his system that it would have led to 'extreme drunkenness' in the average social drinker.

Mr Smart, 39, died on The Parade on September 27 from multiple injuries. His death had been treated as a hit-and-run but the coroner's court heard how truck driver Paul Darby hadn't been aware he had hit anyone until he read about the collision the following day.

Mr Darby, of Merryfield Road, Dudley, said: "I was on the iPad checking the local news. The headline was about an accident on a road I had driven along the night before at the same time. I put two-and-two

together and went to the police."

Mr Darby said: "I was driving just normal speed. I was making my way up a hill. I heard a loud bang and I thought I had hit a house brick or the straps at the sides of my vehicle had come loose. When there's a car on the back I'm used to loud noises.

"There was no damage to the truck. I found that the mudguard had gone and I figured it must have fallen off and I had run over it."

Mr Balmain, concluding the cause of Mr Smart's death, said: "The pa-

thologist found 422 microgrammes of alcohol in his blood. I'm told that 350 microgrammes could be fatal on its own.

"The pathologist said that it could have led to extreme drunkenness in the average social drinker.

"It appears Mr Smart fell and stumbled into the road at the same time Mr Darby drove past. It seems he went into the side of the vehicle."

Mr Smart's sister, Karen Shotton, said: "Darren was the life and soul of the party."

# Neighbours' row over dog mess ended in violence

A DISPUTE over a dog fouling a Dudley street left a 65-year-old man with multiple fractures to his face.

Darren Hayes savagely attacked neighbour Ivan Stevens whose pet he blamed for the mess. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that violence flared after the unemployed 47-year-old launched a verbal assault on the wife of the other man. Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, said: "She was out walking the dog when the defendant had an argument with her. She was shaken up by those events."

Mr Stevens went to see Hayes. He was adamant that his pet was not responsible for excrement in Grenville Road, Russells Hall, on July 24. "The situation escalated with the defendant becoming aggressive," continued Mr Rees. "He pushed the victim, who ended up on the ground where he was punched at least twice."

Mr Stevens was knocked unconscious and passerby Mr Stephen Rowson, a paramedic, gave first aid and called an ambulance. Mr Stevens was taken to hospital with fractures to bones around his eyes and nose.

But more than one landowner controls part of the site and Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley has warned Dudley Council cabinet that they could face deadlock.

Rival developers Avenbury and Cavendish Quarter Properties Ltd have both submitted plans for a supermarket on the site. Dudley regeneration chief Councillor Judy Foster said she hoped talks would be concluded by the summer.

Councillor Harley told councillors: "This is dragging on forever. There is a danger that with those applicants all owning land, each will sit on that land and play a game of who blinks first"

## More than 37 to one ratio for store jobs



The huge queue for jobs with Aldi at the recruitment day held at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill

THIS was the scene as up to 1,500 job seekers queued for just 40 positions up for grabs at a discount supermarket chain.

The lengthy queue snaked around Brierley Hill's Copthorne Hotel where Aldi held a jobs fair on Friday for its stores in the Black Country and neighbouring areas.

Job hunters started arriving more than an hour before the event began at 1pm. They turned out to vye for 40 jobs divided between branches in Dud-

ley, Stourbridge, Halesowen, Brierley Hill, Netherton, Wollaston, Kidderminster and Bridgnorth.

## Mini-interview

Job seekers were given a mini-interview with management teams before handing in their CVs and contact details.

Those who have landed a job with the chain will be told in just over a week's time.

Job hunter Sharon Homer, 47, of

Cradley Heath, said she was 'very surprised' at the turn-out.

The former care support worker said: "It is very difficult to find work at the moment. But I have to confess to being very surprised at the number of people who have turned out. I knew it would be busy but never imagined anything on his scale.

Area manager Leon Donald said: "A previous event similar to this attracted around 1,500 people so we knew this event would be well attended."

## NEWS in brief

### Action likely to shut many schools

MORE than 100 schools were due to close across the West Midlands yesterday because of strike action. The day of action was being organised by the National Union of Teachers as part of a dispute over pay and conditions.

Councillor Tim Crumpton, education chief of Dudley Council, said: "It is a shame it has come to this.

"Workers are carrying out their legal right to take industrial action against the employer, which in this case is the Government."

### Shop revamp to create 10 jobs

A STORE in Dudley is to receive a major revamp, creating 10 jobs. The refurbishment of the B&M store in the Trident Centre will see a 50 per cent increase in shelf space, meaning extra products.

B&M spokesman Charlie Du Pre said work had begun on refurbishment of the store, which should be completed by May. The store will remain open during the work. Store manager Doug Leesley said: "We are really excited by the changes being made."

### Two schools to perform at concert

MUSIC students from from Elmfield School and Old Swinford Hospital School will perform a concert together on Saturday.

Singers, musicians and a swing band are in a show organised by Local & Live. The concert takes place at St James's Church, Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston, at 7.30pm. Tickets are £3 and free for under 18s, on the door or from Music Matters in Market Street.

### MP in visit to bus and coach depot

DUDLEY South MP Chris Kelly met with management and staff at National Express Group's Travel West Midlands depot on the Pensnett Estate in Kingswinford. "I learned how the depot employs 400 people and is open 24/7, moving tens of thousands of people around Dudley and the Black Country," said the Conservative MP.

### Appeal for drivers

A SERVICE providing lifts for people needing to get to medical and dental appointments is appealing for volunteer drivers. To help Hagley Helpline call 01562 886696 10am to noon on a week day.

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## BEST OF OF PETER RHODES



WHAT has the multi-millionaire global superstar Tony Bennett in common with Fungi, the alcoholic loser in Benefits Street (C4)? At the start of yet another tour this week, 87-year-old Bennett explained how much he loved performing and added: "I have never worked a day in my life." Curiously enough, Fungi said exactly the same.

A POOLS winner in every family. That's what George Osborne seems to be promising with his pledge to let pensioners take the full cash amount from their company pension pot instead of having to purchase a boring old annuity. Suddenly Mum or Dad hits 65 and a cheque for £100,000 or more arrives at the door. And so does a procession of people who want to get their hands on the loot. Shysters in smart suits and liars in limos will be queuing up to take your money and "invest" it. Long-lost friends will tap you up for a loan. And most demanding of all will be family members. The son who needs £50,000 for a sure-fire franchise plan. The grandchildren who are struggling at a state school and would blossom in an expensive private school. Instead of liberating you, George Osborne's plan has actually exposed you to the greatest tyranny of our age, the tyranny of choice. And that's when you realise that boring old annuities weren't so bad after all.

ECONOMICS for beginners. If a Government gives parents £800 extra towards child care, by how much will the local nursery put up its charges?

GENEALOGISTS say Prince Harry's girlfriend, Cressida Bonas, is a distant cousin of Princess Diana. So what? We are all distant cousins. It goes with living on an island. An unkind American commentator once pointed out that the serried ranks of the entire extended Windsor dynasty contain only six different faces, and two of those belong to the corgis.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Spy car to help tackle bad parking at schools

A CAMERA car will patrol Sandwell schools to catch parents illegally parking and putting children at risk.

Sandwell Council will fit a camera to one of its vehicles in order to weed out bad drivers on the school run under the £45,000 plans. The proposal comes despite the Government saying it wants to make such cameras illegal.

Local government secretary Eric Pickles said out at the practice, saying that spy cars were just a way for local authorities to make money.

## Complaints

But council bosses say they are responding to public concerns about safety and would use the car in hotspot locations subject to the most complaints.

The camera fitted to the vehicle would cost around £35,000 and the equipment to operate it would cost around £6,000. Annual maintenance of the camera and equipment would be around £4,000.

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper rebutted the criticism from Mr Pickles MP.

He said: "We're aware of Eric Pickles' views. But our paramount concern is the safety of people on our roads, especially children, and the need for us to respond to persistent reports

about illegal parking near our schools.

"This plan is not about the council making money but acting responsibly and responding to Sandwell people's real concerns."

Chiefs hope any fines issued through the scheme and the presence of the camera car itself will deter motorists from parking illegally and thereby improve safety in places where many children are crossing roads.

Councillor Maria Crompton, the borough's highways boss, will be asked to approve the scheme at a meeting on Monday.

Councillor Crompton said: "We know how concerned people are about road safety particularly on routes to and outside schools. This is an issue people keep reporting to us."

"We know most motorists do take care and park legally but we need to get the message through to the minority who don't."

## Tea party for 100th birthday



Louise Walshe celebrates with Margaret Aston and friends

FRIENDS gathered to help Louise Walshe celebrate her 100th birthday.

The friends are members of Halesowen Society for the Blind and met at Mary Steven's Hospice.

The 100-year-old enjoyed cake and Champagne along with music from entertainers. She met Dudley deputy mayor, Councillor Margaret Aston, who turned out to wish her a happy birthday.

Born on March 23, 1914, Louise grew up in Bristol and lived in Bath until she met the Birmingham man who became her husband.

She moved to the city with husband John. They had two daughters Francis and Helen. Francis died seven years ago. Mrs Walshe still regularly sees Helen, 69. After John's death in 1968 she moved to Halesowen and lives in Slims Gate.

As her sight began to fail she joined Halesowen Society for the Blind. Mrs Walshe said: "The society has been very important to me."

She added: "I think the secret to a long life is just accepting things as they come and don't overdo things too much."

## Bus passes change of pick-up location

PEOPLE used to collecting their bus passes from Oldbury Council House will now have to pick them up in West Bromwich, following a decision by transport authority Centro.

From April 1 Centro's Check and Send bus pass service will be moving to West Bromwich bus station from the council house in Freeth Street.

The decision has been taken by the transport authority to reduce the number of its Check & Send Service Centres to eight within the West Midlands.

## Decision

As a result, the One Stop Shop at Oldbury Council House will no longer be offering this service.

Councillor Mahboob Hussain, Cabinet Member for Town and Neighbourhood Services said: "The council has no say in Centro's decision to move its services."

"However, the One Stop Shop will continue to provide all other services as normal."

All Concessionary Travel Passes for older people can only be processed at the NX Travelcard and Information Centre at the bus station in St Michaels Street, which is off The Ringway in West Bromwich.

For more information on the changes to the scheme call 0845 303 6760.



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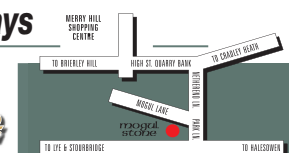
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## Addict decided to grow his own

A MAN who started growing cannabis after a jail sentence for a similar crime has been spared another spell behind bars.

Steven Darnley rented a property from a friend after his release from an 18 month prison term. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. Later a relative of the owner of the property in Whittington Road, Halesowen, noticed a window was boarded up, said Miss Sarah Allen, prosecuting.

The owner investigated after failing to contact 33-year-old Darnley and alerted police when he found cannabis being grown in two bedrooms. "Eleven plants were being grown under a hydroponic set up with fans and lighting. The yield of three annual crops would have been worth up to £10,000," said Miss Allen.

Mr Raymond McVeighy, defending, said: "He is an electrician and helped renovate a house owned by a former school friend with whom he made an arrangement to occupy the premises for 12 months. He had an expensive cannabis habit and decided to grow the stuff rather than pay others for it. He has voluntarily sought help for his drug addiction."

Darnley, of Bournes Hill, Halesowen, admitted producing cannabis and was given a 12 month jail sentence suspended for two years, a three-month night curfew and £250 costs.

# Figures show more pets stolen by heartless thieves

**MORE than 100 dogs, 68 birds, 13 fish, five sheep and even one chicken — that's just some of the hundreds of animals snatched by thieves in one year.**

New figures show 249 pets and livestock were stolen in 2013 across the West Midlands.

Police say they treat the offences seriously but an animal rescuing and rehoming charity claims the figures are only the tip of the iceberg.

Denise Broadman, from Dog Watch in the West Midlands, said: "Dogs are being stolen at an alarming rate with many being sold on for drugs or to be used for fighting. It is a worrying time and I urge everyone to keep their pets on lead in public places."

Rare breeds including Chihuahuas, Japanese Akitas and Siberian Huskies are among the animals most targeted, according to Mrs Broadman, who says a pedigree puppy can fetch as much as £2,000.

There are also instances where the pets are taken and then offered back as part of a ransom from their owners.

"There is a sick underground world out there where people are given orders to steal dogs," said Mrs Broadman.

A search on websites such as doglost.co.uk reveals the extent of the problem with dozens of desperate owners listing their pets.

Jennie Dhanjal, founder of K9 Search UK, which also advertises lost and stolen dogs, said: "We get many, many calls from concerned owners with a range of terrible stories, from animal kidnapping to dogs disappearing from back gardens."

"It's heartbreaking for the owners. We just try and do our best to get them back."

But it is not just dogs which are targeted. The figures from the three police forces show birds, fish, sheep, chickens and even guinea pigs are swiped by thieves.

A total of nine horses, ponies and donkeys were stolen last year.

West Midlands Police said three fish were stolen, a snake and a reptile were taken in the same year.

## Time review takes too long

A REVIEW of how to make best use of police time has so far kept West Midlands officers busy for a combined 91 hours with little to show from it, chiefs were told.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary is trying to find out what would make police work most effective, including focusing on preventative policing and freeing officers' time. It demanded 91 hours of West Midlands officers' time in one week alone, the county's Strategic Policing and Crime Board heard. That included gathering anecdotal evidence and figures to aid research.

Police and crime commissioner Bob Jones said some in the force had observed the review into the best use of police time was taking up a lot of police time.

That opinion appeared to be shared by Chief Constable Chris Sims. Taking questions from panel councillors, he said: "I have not attempted to convert the time taken on the review into a monetary cost but last week the HMIC inspection took 91 hours of police time. That is a disproportionate amount of police time. Effectively that's taken two weeks' worth of activity that could have been used elsewhere."

## Peachy keen to help campaign



Angela Daniels hopes her cheeky post may save lives

THREE people from the Black Country have become the faces of a cheeky poster campaign to encourage people to spot signs of cancer.

Angela Daniels, from Halesowen, Peter Brooks, of Stourbridge, and Lisa Eardly, of Wolverhampton, are appearing in the Cancer Research UK Spot Cancer Sooner campaign to help people know what is normal for their bodies so they are more likely to notice changes which could indicate cancer.

Retired teacher Angela, aged 59, and her husband Tony have an interest in Cancer Research through their daughter Charlie, 23, who is studying for a PhD in radiology at Cambridge University.

Angela, who retired from Newfield Park Primary School, Halesowen after a 37-year career, said her cheeky image was inspired by a novelty tea towel. "It had lots of fruit on it, and was asking which ones your breasts were like. I said mine were pear-shaped but still peachy."

The posters also promote the charity's free nurse helpline, 0808 800 4040.

## NEWS in brief

### Warning over cancer con emails

FRAUDSTERS pretending to be medics have been telling people in Staffordshire they could have cancer in a bid to access their bank details.

Worried people from at least five GP practices in the north of the county have contacted their surgeries after tricksters told them their blood contained signs of the disease in an email.

The horrific scam is attempting to obtain each recipient's personal details, which could then be used to access their bank accounts.

Doctors from South East Staffordshire and the Seisdon Peninsula, which covers Burntwood, Lichfield, Codsall, Wombourne and Kolver, urged people to be aware of the con trick.

### Bid to demolish 14th century inn

AN application has been made to demolish a 14th century pub and replace it with eight homes.

The Swan Inn, Sedgley Road, Woodsetton, is still trading but a planning application has been lodged to knock it down to make way for housing.

Submitted to Dudley Council by KC Humpherson, the plan would see eight two-bedroom homes built on the site.

Ward councillor Adam Aston said: "I think any pub being demolished, particularly an old one, is sad news. I know we need more housing but it surprises me."

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## IN MY VIEW

WITH  
MARK  
ANDREWS

HOW many coppers does it take to change a lightbulb? Quite a lot, of copper coins that is, according to new figures from the Metropolitan Police.

It now emerges that the force pays a maintenance company £26 every time it needs a bulb replacing, or £100 in the case of an emergency.

And what exactly constitutes an 'emergency' in the world of police lighting maintenance?

If it involves clambering on the top of a speeding police car to replace the flashing blue light, then fair enough, and well worth the hundred quid. Otherwise, it can surely wait.

Or perish the thought, maybe somebody at the station could be trained in the art of lightbulb replacement?

WATCHING the coverage surrounding the 30th anniversary of the miners' strike, the saddest thing of all is the vitriol which still exists between families on either side of the dispute.

Particularly tragic is the response from the former miners' wives, who you might hope would have been a calming influence.

The wife of one man, who went on strike during the dispute, described the working miners as 'the scum of the earth', accusing them of betraying their colleagues.

Surely, after all these years, it is time to bury the hatchet?

I can understand why some of the miners wanted to go on strike, fearing for the future of their industry, and I can also understand why some decided to work through the dispute.

But surely the hallmark of a civilised society is the ability to respect those you disagree with?

Wouldn't it have been so much better if, instead of stoking up the venom, some of the miners' wives had said: "Look, Bob is going out on strike, it is his right to do that. And Dave is going to work, which is also his right. That doesn't mean you can't still be friends."

During the First World War, British and German soldiers found it within themselves to take part in a game of football during the Christmas Day truce. No industrial dispute is worth this level of hatred.

SO Vladimir Putin has taken over the Crimea, and his troops are now amassed and ready to take over Moldova.

Meanwhile, Dave and Barack have voted to expel him from G8, which is basically a sort of rotary club for world leaders. That'll teach him.



Muriel Thatcher feeding the giraffes seven years ago



Young Muriel in the 1930s when Dudley Zoo first opened



Muriel celebrated her 80th birthday with Dudley's lemurs

# Muriel visits zoo over 2,000 times

ANDREW TURTON meets Muriel Thatcher, Dudley Zoo's biggest fan since the opening day in 1937

**A FIRST** captivating visit to Dudley Zoo by a little girl on its opening day 77 years ago started what would become a lifelong love affair.

Now aged 87, Muriel Thatcher has visited the attraction at least twice a month ever since she was first spellbound by the Castle Hill attraction at the age of 10. She has since even adopted 23 of the animals that call Dudley Zoological Gardens their home.

And now the zoo has presented Muriel, who has to catch two buses on a three-hour round trip to get there, with life membership and an engraved bench in her honour.

## First

Miss Thatcher, from Wednesfield, recalls her first visit to the zoo on its opening day on May 6, 1937, like it was yesterday.

She said: "When I heard that a zoo was opening, I begged my mum that she would take me and my younger sister.

"My first ever visit was just magical. I had never seen exotic animals.

"On the opening day, we waited for hours upon end as queues to get in snaked around the block and my mum wanted to give up and go home but I begged her to stay.

"When we got in, it was worth every minute that we waited and I felt like I was taken to another world."

She has been so dedicated to the zoo's animals over what equates to more than 2,000 visits, that she even took food in for them during the Second World War.

"Visiting the zoo during the war was



Zoo chairman Neil Cutler and chief Peter Suddock present Muriel with membership

a bit of a challenge, as everyone had to concentrate on the war effort," she said.

"Adding to that, the zoo had irregular opening hours because of air raid scares and the blackouts.

"Nevertheless, I still tried to go as much as possible and I used to take any food scraps for the animals, as food was scarce for humans let alone animals, and so I felt sorry for them.

"I particularly hold fond in my heart memories from the great summer of 1969. The atmosphere at the zoo was so electric and everyone had a blast.

"Everyone was happy because of the glorious weather and people were eating ice cream after ice cream to keep cool.

"Even the elephants, who are used to high heats, were having to be constantly cooled down with big buckets of water."

Miss Thatcher, who helped to open the zoo's new £40,000 Penguin Bay exhibit in May 2012, will now be able to sit on her very own bench in the Lemur Wood.

She was also presented with a rack-

sack kitted out with a hot drinks flask and a packet of biscuits as zoo chairman Neil Cutler and zoo chief executive Peter Suddock gave her free life membership.

She said: "The bench is beautiful and very comfortable and I joked that I will need a truck to push it round with me."

"The flask is also very thoughtful, the staff have obviously spotted me having my picnics."

"It's such a special place and I love visiting as often as I can."

"I've seen lots of changes over the past 77 years and it has improved no end, but I definitely believe it's the best it has ever been."

"The staff are so wonderful and the work they do with the animals is brilliant."

Being perhaps the zoo's biggest fan, Miss Thatcher has become a VIP over the years and is always invited to any special functions.

"They do treat me very well and they let me hold some of the smaller animals whenever I go," she said.

"They will send a car for me if there is a function but I don't like all the fuss and would even go if I had to walk all the way there."

## Amazing

But with so many experiences at the zoo to remember, she does recall her favourite moment from across the 77 years.

"I was lucky enough to even be invited to a special audience to watch one of the tigers, Sarah, give birth to her cubs," she said. "The whole thing lasted about 20 minutes and it was such an amazing spectacle."

"I just love Dudley Zoo, it's a very special place for me and I never tire of it."

"I cannot imagine life without the zoo. The staff are like family and it's the most magical place."

She added: "Now that I'm saving on an annual pass, I'll be able to spend more money on treats for my favourite animals."

## THROUGH THE YEARS

### 1984

THE chairman of the National Coal Board Ian McGregor was knocked to the ground during a visit to a Northumberland pit. Police were trying to hold back crowds of miners who threw eggs as he tried to leave. Mr McGregor, aged 71, was pinned against a fence which collapsed.

THE man who led Argentina to war with Britain by invading the Falkland Islands was placed under arrest in his home country. General Leopoldo Galtieri, who had seized control of Argentina in a military coup in December 1981, was accused by the country's highest military court of 'leading the country to war when it was not prepared for a confrontation of such characteristics and magnitude'.

### 1994

PRIME Minister Tony Blair warned that no-one was safe from terror after more than 200 people were killed in a bomb attack on a train in Madrid. Basque separatist group ETA denied claims by the Spanish government that it was behind the bombing. "We will not defeat it by hoping it will leave us alone or by hiding away. We must be prepared for them to strike," said Mr Blair, adding that he would do 'whatever is necessary' to defend democracy.

PRIME Minister John Major admitted he was bewildered by youngsters who bought expensive jeans and then tore holes in them during a visit to a fashion show in the West Midlands. The PM, not noted for his cutting-edge fashion sense, also told designer Jeff Banks that it was his wife Norma who had dragged him along to the Premier Collections show at the NEC.

### 2004

THREE men from Tipton were due to return to the UK after being detained for more than two years in Guantanamo Bay. Ruhul Ahmed, aged 23, Asif Iqbal, 20 and Shafiq Rasul, 25, were expected to be questioned by British police on arrival at RAF Northolt in Middlesex. They had been captured in Afghanistan in 2001, and held in US custody on suspicion of terror offences at Camp Delta in Cuba. They were released without charge after being interviewed by police.

THE stars of hit comedy Phoenix Nights were heading for the West Midlands for a night of stand-up. However, Peter Kay, the man who created the sitcom set in a Lancashire social club, was not attending. Paddy McGuinness, who played the hapless bouncer Paddy O'Shea, was to compete the Jumping On The Bandwagon show at Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Hall.

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# London airports the reason for HS2

AS a keen train-spotter in my youth — there wasn't much else to do in Tipton in those days — I have always maintained an interest in the railways.

The new head of HS2 has announced his intention to speed up the building of the project, bringing it forward by six years. He claims to have spent time in the Midlands and the North and says he is passionate about re-balancing the economy to bring jobs and wealth to those regions. He also claims that the West Coast Main Line is, and I quote, "Victorian". He must be well aware of the fact that it was completely re-laid

and re-vamped for electrification in the 1960s. He should also have noticed that the West Midlands has by far the best rail network outside London, so why the hurry?

As for creating jobs and wealth, in all my 64 years I have never heard anyone say "If only rail travel to London was quicker, things would be a lot better". However, I have often heard business people complaining about insurance costs, business rates and development costs. These are the issues that determine the distribution of wealth and jobs. By cutting business rates and

development costs, the Government could achieve those supposed objectives without spending an extra penny of taxpayers' money.

So why is HS2 so important to them? It is the main link in improving rail passenger access to Stansted, Gatwick and Heathrow to coincide with recently approved expansion plans, all at the expense of Birmingham, Coventry and East Midlands airports. If HS2 is ever completed, make no mistake, the Midlands will suffer.

**M CLIFF**  
**Wall Heath**

## Grant aid for 'Our Big Gig'

ONE-OFF grants of £400 are available to community groups and organisations to help them take part in Our Big Gig, a community music celebration taking place across the UK on the 11th, 12th and 13th July 2014.

Our Big Gig is an annual event that brings communities together to improve community cohesion and inspire people to take part in music making opportunities in their local area. Successful applicants will be offered resources, support and training.

The project is managed by Superact, a not-for-profit music and arts organisation that uses creativity to improve the health and well-being of people from a wide variety of backgrounds and abilities.

The deadline for applications is Friday, April 4, at noon. Apply now on-line at [www.ourbiggig.co.uk](http://www.ourbiggig.co.uk)

Please get in touch for further information.

**NICOLA TOMS**  
Project Manager

LETTERS to the Editor	
<b>POST</b> Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES	<b>E-MAIL</b> Dudley.chron@ expressandstar.co.uk
Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.	

## Lot of catching-up over apprenticeships

WHOSE fault is the current skills gap? Having read that earlier this month was designated as National Apprenticeship Week, I am provoked to repeat the contents of a letter published some four to five years ago.

The present Government is endeavouring to 'reinvent the wheel'. When Margaret Thatcher's Government took charge there existed around 70 to 80 training boards responsible for ensuring adequate skills training for a great variety of industries.

I was for 30 years involved with industrial training firstly with Joseph Sankey & Sons Ltd and later as a lecturer at Dudley Technical College. Training was then closely monitored by the Engineering Industry Training Board, who ensured a high level of achievement for apprentices. These boards were funded by a levy on companies of a certain minimum size and did a really good job in maintaining high skills levels. During the Thatcher Government these were mostly discontinued (as far as I am aware the only survivors are those for the construction and road transport industries). Myself and many others expressed concern at this decision but to no avail and the 30 year skills gap is the result. There is now a great amount of catching up to do.

**J GAGE, C.ENG MIET**  
Willenhall

## Details are needed on rail route

IS it me or were there supposed to be consultations about the supposedly proposed HS2 (High Speed 2) and its routes?

It would seem that now it is being steamrollered through.

If HS2 is only proposed why has a company with a chairman been formed to oversee it?

### Map

And more to the point — who is paying its employees?

When the proposed routes are shown on TV we only see a green background with a line showing the route and only major towns and cities are shown.

I would much prefer to see a Google Earth type of map, showing the entire route taking in the villages and towns so people can see the full impact.

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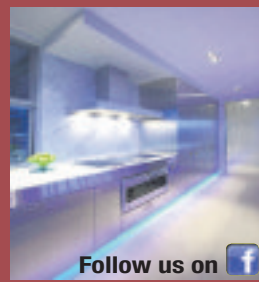
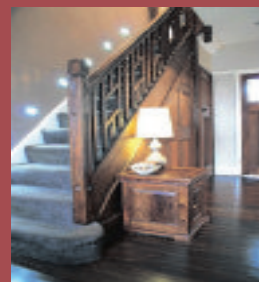


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## Shopping village trip is finalised

QUARRY BANK E TWG

MRS V Wright chaired the first meeting of Quarry Bank TG in 2014 and greeted 27 members.

The meeting proceeded with the reading and signing of minute. The treasurer's report was also given.

Mrs V Raybould gave information received from her attendance at the federation meeting. The National AGM will this year be held in Cardiff and arrangements for transport were mentioned.

The Harvest Supper normally held in Wollaston is cancelled. Instead this year there will be a Harvest Lunch. Mrs Wright had correspondence including an invitation to the Mayor's Ball and thanks received from the Air Ambulance Charity and Mary Stevens Hospice for donations from last year's charity events.

Social secretary Mrs Writtle had finalised arrangements for the visit to The Hop Pocket Shopping Village on April 1. The birthday dinner will be on March 25 at Himley House Hotel.

Speaker for this evening was Derek Clark who gave a most interesting talk - illustrated with slides - on the restoration of the Back to Back houses in Birmingham.

Several of the frontages of these houses were, until quite recently, being used as shops, whereas the back premises were completely derelict.

Mr Clark was thanked for a quite fascinating account of this project.

The meeting this evening ended as usual with the serving of tea and biscuits.

## Money split after year of fundraising



Chairman Janice Symonds presents Geoff Wilkes from the Macro Anaphthalmic Children's Society and Elaine Denny from the Alzheimers Cafe with cheques for £550 each

CODSALL 'M' TG

THROUGHOUT the past year, members of Codsall 'M' Townswomen's Guild have been working to raise money for their two chosen charities, the Macro Anaphthalmic Children's Society and the Alzheimers Cafe.

Social afternoons with quizzes, sales of cakes and craft items, silent auctions, raffles and cream teas were held and a total of £1,100 was raised altogether.

At the Guild's recent AGM, chairman Janice Symonds presented Mr Geoff Wilkes

representing the Macro Anaphthalmic Children's Society and Ms Elaine Denny from the Alzheimers Cafe with cheques for £550 each.

Both representatives gave a short talk about the work done by their respective charities and expressed their grateful thanks on receiving such substantial amounts.

## Molly wins the Daisy Drive

HAWNE TG

CHAIRMAN Sheila Turner opened the last meeting and welcomed two visitors.

She thanked Brenda Dobson for providing the flowers on the chairman's table and the ladies who volunteered to help on the sales table.

The guild is looking for volunteers to join the committee. Social secretary San-

dra Hartshorne gave details of trips planned to the Dudley Archives and the Black Country Museum.

An evening at Haden Hill House in November has been booked. Weather permitting there will be a long walk in the spring.

After the business of the evening, members enjoyed a Daisy Drive, organised by Joyce Graves. Accompanied by much laughter, the winner was Molly Greenway. Barbara Bryant won the booby prize, a giant lollipop.

The needlework competition was won by Sheila Turner.

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# Larissa to give beauty pageant her best shot

A SOLDIER will exchange her military fatigues for glamorous gowns after reaching the final of this year's prestigious Miss Birmingham contest.

Larissa Phipps said it was the first time she has been involved with an event of this kind and was delighted to have been selected for the glittering final.

The 20-year-old is used to being under pressure as she has been a serving soldier for the past three-and-a-half years.

Larissa is a gunner with the The King's Troop in London and said that her comrades had all been 'very encouraging' and want her to return to them with the city's coveted title for beauty and personality.

## Theatre

The big final of the event will be held at Birmingham's Crescent Theatre, just off Brindley Place, on Sunday, April 27.

The former Pedmore and Technology College student said: "I have been interested in doing something like this for a while and my family and friends encouraged me to go for it.

She explained: "I am not scared of anything and won't be worried about going out on the catwalk.

"Actually, I am really looking forward to the competition and seeing what happens. I am feeling more anticipation than nervousness."

Larissa, who is single, has a life-long passion for horses and had been involved in equestrian competitions, such as showjumping, in the past.

"I did not intend to join the Army when I was younger but all that changed when I saw The King's Troop on horseback," she said.

"I have loved horses since before I was able to walk and always wanted



**Twenty-year-old action girl Larissa pictured in her civvies**

to work with them. I thought why not join the military as well.

"I absolutely love it," she said.

"Since the first training I have been enjoyed everything about it.

As regards her inclusion in the Miss Birmingham final, she said: "My colleagues have been really supportive and want me to come back with the title. I am certainly going to give it my best shot."

As part of the Miss Birmingham competition, the 20 finalists have to wear evening gowns, sportswear, and going out dresses and one round will



**Larissa on duty with the King's Troop based in London**

even see the contenders dressed in clothes that are made from recycled materials.

## England

The winner will get direct entry into the Miss England competition, and the winner of that gets an entry into the \$100,000 Miss World contest. The Miss Birmingham winner will also become an ambassador for the city.

Larissa added: "Just to make it through to the final of the competition is a real achievement and I am very proud to have reached this far."

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This picture of Manfred Mann is on show at the exhibition



A shot of Midlands band The Move from Jim Simpson's collection



The Rolling Stones feature in this Jim Simpson picture



Jim Simpson of Big Bear Records with some of his collection

# Unique snaps relive the rock 'n' roll years

UNIQUE photographs, taken by music manager Jim Simpson, feature in an exhibition on the heady days of rock 'n' roll at a Black Country library.

Mr Simpson, a music photographer and the original manager of Black Sabbath, is showing off his collection of rare photographs at West Bromwich Central Library until this weekend.

Jagger, The Killers and The Prettiest Man In Rock and Roll, features 40 images of artists, including Mick Jagger, Jerry Lee Lewis and Little Richard, during visits to the West Midlands.

Mr Simpson was the founder of the Birmingham-based Big Bear record company. Many of the pictures, which come from his personal collection, have not been seen for more than 40 years.

"Back in the 60s, I was playing in a band called Locomotive, and I was a photographer for Melody Maker," said the 75-year-old, who grew up in Halesowen. "I used to take pictures for them, but I also used to keep some

## MEMORY LANE by Mark Andrews

back for myself, and the pictures in the exhibition are some of those," he said.

Jagger's band The Rolling Stones feature, along with Chuck Berry, Nina Simone, John Lee Hooker and Rod Stewart.

The first official publicity shots of The Moody Blues, and The Move, along with photographs of The Spencer Davis Group are also on show.

The photographs give a fascinating insight into how musicians appeared when they were not performing.

"I remember Cream, with Eric Clapton, were playing in a pub in Yardley in front of 200 people, and you could always get backstage for a few pictures," said Mr Simpson.

"The chances of you ever getting that close to Clapton these days would seem pretty remote."

The exhibition will mark 45 years

of his Big Bear label. Other stars in the exhibition include Cilla Black, Bill Haley and The Comets, and Chuck Berry.

Mr Simpson started running Big Bear records in 1968, and it was during this time he discovered a four-piece band called Earth at a famous music night he ran in Birmingham called Henry's Blues House.

## Better

"When I first saw them I could see they were talented and I let them play a few slots, the audience response was good so I asked if I could manage them," he said.

The band even wrote a song for him called, Song for Jim, but he could quickly see them going on to better things. After a suggestion by bassist Geezer Butler, they went to become Black Sabbath.

Eventually the band went its separate way and they ended up signing up with Phillips Records, just two weeks after Jim helped them launch their first album Black Sabbath.



Little Richard also features in the display

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# Tragedy in the sun as balcony fall kills father

IT had been a sunshine getaway with the family he adored in luxury surroundings. But the dream family holiday to Turkey ended in tragedy.

A coroner has ruled that father-of-two Richard Handley most likely died in an accident when he fell from the top floor balcony of his hotel room.

His wife Rachel is still trying to come to terms with the fact that she will probably never know exactly what happened.

Mr Handley, 39, of Netherton, was found by a gardener outside the Baia Lara Hotel, in Antalya on August 31, 2012.

Smethwick Coroners Court heard that Mr Handley had been on holiday with Rachel and daughter Paige, now nine. Mrs Handley, of Fladbury Close, Netherton, said the family had returned to their hotel room, on the top floor of the building, at around 3.30pm the previous day.

She told the inquest she and her husband had been drinking alcohol earlier that day.

## Hottest

"He had been drinking vodka and coke and I had cocktails," she said. "It did not seem to affect him. Richard did not seem drunk."

"We were nearing the end of our holiday and went back to the hotel room at around 3.30pm. It was the hottest part of the day so we all had showers and went to sleep."

"Mrs Handley said she had woken up at around 9.30pm and her husband was not there. She had gone back to sleep and was awoken by the phone early the next morning."

"All the person on the other end asked was if my husband was with me," she said. "I told them he wasn't there."

"Richard was very in to his fitness,



Richard Handley, 39, of Netherton, died on holiday in a fall from a balcony



The Baia Lara Hotel, in Antalya, Turkey, where the tragedy happened

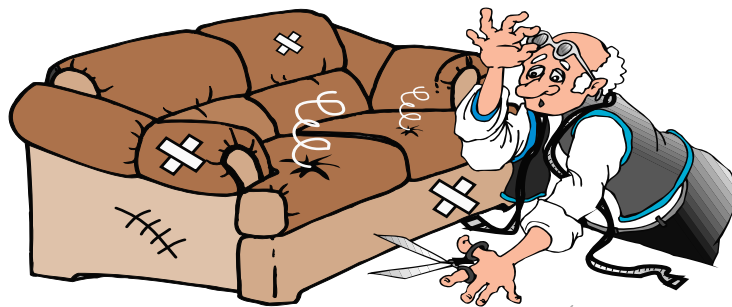
he absolutely loved the gym, and sometimes he used to go down to the beach for a run during the morning. Thinking this is what had happened I got Paige and myself ready to go and meet him. It was only when I left the room and was on my way the hotel manager called me over and said Richard had been found. His body was still outside."

A tent had been set up around her husband's body and police attended.

Senior Black Country Coroner Mr Robin Balmain said: "A post-mortem was carried out in this country which found the cause of death to be severe head injuries, as may be expected."

"Although we do not know for certain, it is most likely Mr Handley fell over the balcony."

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# Honour for borough's stone lifting strongman

HE has inspired generations of fans with his feats of strength and now has been honoured at a ceremony at the House of Lords.

Shahzada Saleem became a stone lifting star by repeatedly breaking his own records during his long career.

And now the 49-year-old, from Kingswinford, who has five children and four grandchildren, has attended a special event at the Palace of Westminster.

## King

He was given the Iconic Stone Lifter award by peer Lord Nazir Ahmed watched on by friends and family in the rooms of the House of Lords on February 24.

Mr Saleem, known affectionately as King Shazad, said he was proud of the achievement and thanked his family for their support.

"I am truly honoured to receive the Iconic Stone Lifter award. I want to give special thanks to Lord Nazir who invited us at the House of Lords," he said. "A special mention must go to my brothers Mohammed Aurangzeb and Shahzada Tanveer for their support throughout my career and my son Shaz Saleem who did me proud with his speech."

"I want to thank all my fans, without your love and support this award recognition would never have been possible."

Mr Saleem was born in Pakistan but his family moved to England when he was aged just one and settled in Dudley borough.

He was a keen sportsman growing up and was so inspired by the stone lifters that he decided to take up the sport himself in around 1983 aged just 16.



Stone lifter Shahzada Saleem



Mr Saleem at Manchester Mela in 2010

Two years later he became the youngest world champion when he lifted a stone weighing 160kg or around 350lbs at an event in Birmingham when he only weighed around 12 stones himself.

"When people heard about him, they couldn't believe it and that curiosity brought the sport back from the brink really," said his son Shaz.

In stone lifting, competitors lift a huge block off the ground with one hand and press from his chest.

During his career he gathered fans both across Britain eventually setting

a benchmark of 441 lbs or 201kg in 1995.

He also travelled to Pakistan having been challenged to match that mark in the country and he did so in front of a crowd of 50,000 adoring fans.

Since bowing out of the sport he has concentrated on running the family taxi business, Beacon Taxis based in Sedgley, and his own sports academy.

The annual Dudley Mela, showcasing Asian sport, was renamed in his honour Dudley Shazad Mela and Mr Saleem won the Duncan Edwards civic award for sport in 2011.

## ADVERTISEMENT

# New Motorised Wheelchair for Age UK Dudley at Merry Hill



Pictured above is David Hazlewood, Director of Straits Mobility, handing over the new wheelchair to Elaine Panchal, Age UK Dudley manager.

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Age UK Dudley and Straits Mobility have enjoyed an excellent working relationship since 2011 and this has been enhanced with the latest addition to the Shopmobility Service at the centre.

Straits Mobility Services Ltd are an established, independent, family run business based on The Russells Hall Estate in Dudley and are experts in the supply, repair and servicing of mobility products. They have gone from strength to strength over the last five years culminating with the opening of their new Mobility Centre last Summer which can accommodate their excellent range of mobility products.

Director David Hazlewood commented "We have donated this electric wheelchair to Age UK Dudley for use by visitors to the Merry Hill Centre. They provide a great service and this addition to their fleet we are sure will be a great benefit."

Brian Phillips, Senior Manager at Age UK Dudley was delighted to receive the donation "Whilst our work is primarily associated with providing support and activities for all older people throughout the Borough, it is important to understand that you do not need to be an older person or even a disabled person to sometimes need some help with mobility and that is exactly what Age UK Dudley looks to provide for visitors here at Merry Hill.

Straits Mobility service and maintain our Motorised Scooter and Wheelchair Fleet and have done so in the most professional and reliable manner since we took over the Shopmobility Service in 2011.

Age UK Dudley enjoys an excellent relationship with Straits Mobility and we look forward to continue working with them for a long time to come. In difficult economic times we are thoroughly delighted to accept this most generous donation of a motorised wheelchair from Straits Mobility."



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## Call to put strike leader on new coin

THE new one pound coin should be adorned with a picture of the woman who led women chainmakers in a strike that changed the lives of the poor, a Parliamentary candidate says.

Stephanie Peacock wants Mary Macarthur on the new coin, announced last week by Chancellor George Osborne.

### Wage

Edwardian trade unionist and women's rights campaigner Mary Macarthur led the women chainmakers of Cradley Heath in 1910 when they went on a ten-week strike, which paved the way for the minimum wage.

Miss Peacock, Labour candidate in Halesowen and Rowley Regis for the 2015 election, said: "Mary Macarthur was a powerful woman. She stood up for the metal working trades that made the UK prosperous."

"We should celebrate her life and honour the millions of manufacturing workers who made this country great. Like we do with bank notes, we should use the new £1 coin to celebrate great innovators."

Scottish-born Mary Macarthur died aged 40 in 1921. A park has been named in her honour in Cradley Heath.

# Retirement village being proposed for school site

A HOUSING development will be built on part of the site of a former school under new plans recommended for approval.

William Davis Limited has submitted proposals for nine homes on the northern part of the old Cradley High School site.

Midland Heart has already begun work on nearby £18million retirement village, which will have 120 apartments. It is being built on the main part of the site which was left vacant when the school was demolished in 2010.

by Heather Large

### Supported

A planning application for the new homes has been submitted to Dudley Council.

Planning officers have supported the scheme saying it will bring the site back into use.

The development would be made up of five detached houses and two pairs of semi-detached houses.

They would all be two-storey and finished in brick and tile.

One letter of objection was lodged which raised concerns about the new houses being out of character with the surrounding area and fears about an increase in traffic.

A report which will go before councillors next week said: "This is a reserved matters application for the erection of nine dwellings

that follows on from the granting of outline planning permission for the erection of dwellings on the site as part of the application for the redevelopment of the wider site."

Work on the retirement village is expected to be completed in spring next year.

The complex will feature a range of facilities including a bar, coffee shop, restaurant, activity hall, gym and library.

The apartments would be available to buy or rent, or as shared ownership.

Every unit will have its own front entrance door, while bigger apartments will incorporate a second bedroom, with enough space for wheelchair access.

There would also be garden and woodland areas.

The development in Cradley follows in the footsteps of similar schemes in Dudley and Coseley.



The first picture from inside the new Haden Cross fire station in Cradley Heath

## Modern fire station takes shape

THIS is the first image taken from inside the skeleton of a new £3 million state-of-the-art Haden Cross Community Fire Station.

The station, being constructed on the site of former municipal buildings at the junction of Barrs Road and Halesowen Road in Cradley Heath, is set to be complete in July.

Councillor John Edwards, chairman of the West Midlands Fire Authority and a former firefighter, is pleased with how it is progressing. He said: "It's all going well. It's on track, on time and on budget."

"We are due to get the keys in July so it should be finished from then, and we will start moving in and become operational as soon as possible. I am very pleased with the progress."

Construction of the steel frame and roof of the building had been completed, with brick and block work already under way.

## Christians plan Walk of Witness

CHURCHGOERS will be turning out for a special walk in the West Midlands next month.

The annual Good Friday Walk of Witness will take place on April 18 and will involve people from churches across Cradley Heath, Dudley Wood and Old Hill. It will begin at 9.30am with prayers at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Old Hill. The route will then see the walkers head to Trinity Street, Claremont Street and into Roxburgh House. Then to St Luke's Church, on to The Market Place in Cradley Heath and end by the statue outside Tesco.

Services afterwards will be held at Four Ways Baptist Church at the end of the High Street or at The Salvation Army in Meredith Street.

A service will also be held at St James WP Church, Highgate Street, Old Hill at 7.30 pm on Good Friday.

## Chaos win stage awards

CRADLEY Heath Amateur Operatic Society swept the board in the Birmingham and District Guild Peripatetic Awards, thanks to its production of Me and My Girl last November. The group won four awards, NODA Cup for An Outstanding Achievement plus awards for actor J Paul Murdock and director Dennis Price whose production team won for best musical.

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## 200 staff face axe at food firm

MORE than 200 jobs are to be axed at a major West Midlands food firm.

Freshway Chilled Foods in Wolverhampton will shut after it failed to win a new contract to keep supplying sandwiches to The Foodservice Centre.

A total of 208 people work full time at the Freshway's site, on Stafford Road, and will continue to supply FSC until the contract ends in June. Parent company Tulip said loss of the work meant it would be 'economically unsustainable' to keep the Wolverhampton site running.

Staff were told at a meeting last week, described by a company spokesman as 'emotional'. Many of the workforce have been at Freshway for decades. A consultation has now begun involving Freshway, workers and union representatives.

## Business duo have got a lot of bottle



The two Stuarts in the studio at Red House Glass Cone

IT takes bottle to launch a new business and in the case of two glass craftsmen, that's a lot of bottle.

Stuart Caldicott and Stuart Goodings have started a company recycling old bottles, giving them a new lease of life in quirky decorative items. Past Glass is based at Wordsley's Red House Con.

Now they are hoping to cut local organisations, such as schools, colleges and scout groups, in on the action by asking them to collect and clean bottles, which they will then buy to fashion into fresh objects.

They will pay 10p per bottle, recycling money for local community projects as well as providing the raw material for their products.

"The theme is that this is waste that is 'up-cycled', rather than being thrown away into the bin," said Mr Goodings, aged 41, who lives in Wordsley. "We melt and reshape them into all kinds of item."

The pair work under the group name of Stuarts by Desig. Anyone interested in setting up a bottle collecting service should contact them on (01384) 572037.

## Multi-million pound fund to fix potholes

COUNCILS across the region are in line for more than £3 million to tackle potholes.

The funding from the Government is part of a £14.3 million chest offered to repair roads damaged by the wettest winter on record.

The funding is a one-off payment and offers enough to repair an extra 3.3 million potholes.

Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin said: "Damage to roads causes misery for drivers and local communities and the severe weather over the last few months has made the problem worse."

"This extra money will help make a real difference to the millions of road users and residents across the West Midlands who rely on local roads, giving them safer and smoother journeys."

Dudley gets £318,757, Sandwell £302,501, Walsall £251,947 and Wolverhampton £231,973.

# Equal pay bill for councils to cost well over £100m

**COUNCILS across the Black Country have spent or set aside more than £110 million to settle claims from thousands of women workers who claim they were not paid the same as men.**

The cost arose because of a change in the rules in 1997 that said councils had to give equal pay not just to people with the same job, but those doing work at a similar level.

It meant that jobs mainly done by women,

such as cleaning and catering, needed to be paid the same as those done mainly by men, such as bin men. The bin men would get bonuses at some councils and these needed to be taken into account.

But it has come at an extraordinarily tough time for the authorities, some of whom say they have lost up to half their Government funding as a result of Coalition-imposed cuts. As it emerges one dinner lady was paid a settlement of £190,000 in Birmingham, Dudley Council confirmed it had 3,800 claimants and has settled 3,300 of them. The cost is so far £52m.

The equal pay claims are a further burden on council budgets which have been squeezed by central government funding cuts, resulting in thousands of jobs being axed.

Sandwell Council has so far settled 6,000 claims at a cost of £33 million, mainly in 2009 and 2010. Wolverhampton City Council set aside £30m to settle hundreds of claims.

Ravi Subramanian, West Midlands regional secretary for trade union Unison, said: "These were people who were underpaid for years. There were jobs done mainly by men that were paid a lot more than jobs done mainly by women."

## Work starts on super cell block

WORK has begun on a multi-million pound jail block that will become the main custody suite for the Black Country.

When completed the new 'super cell block' will replace the majority of cells at police stations in the West Midlands.

It will provide spaces for up to 60 offenders who will be processed and booked in before being bailed or transferred to courts across the area.

Work at the site in Bromford Road, Oldbury began this week and marks the first phase of two purpose-built centres in the West Midlands, with work at a similar site in Holford Drive, Perry Barr due to begin in August.

Construction of the new suite is expected to be completed by June 2015.

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# Road schemes unveiled to free up junction jams

**FOUR potential schemes that could ease congestion at one of the Black Country's busiest junctions with a multi-million-pound investment have been drawn up.**

Transport bosses at Sandwell Council are asking for public opinion on four possible options for the busy Birchley Island in Oldbury, which could include turning it into a 'hamburger' roundabout.

Traffic currently backs up around the island at peak times, with queues often blocking the approach roads, which causes problems changing lanes to leave the island.

A consultation has been launched over the major gateway into Sandwell, at junction two of the M5, as to how traffic around the island can be reduced.

Sandwell Council's jobs and economy boss Councillor Ian Jones said: "Anyone who drives around the island knows that there can be queues at peak times. This is frustrating and we need to do something about it. We're committed to solving this problem if we can get the funding to make some improvements."

"We've looked at the possibility of constructing an underpass or a flyover. However, both would be extremely difficult to construct and very expensive because of the electricity sub-station and the motorway viaduct."

"So we have four options on the table, and we want members of the public to

**by Dan Wainwright**

get involved and tell us what they think."

Option A, estimated to cost £10.5 million, would see the M5 link widened, with traffic lights put on all approach roads.

The second potential scheme would include option A, but would also involve extending the Wolverhampton Road through the roundabout to create a two-way 'hamburger' island. That could cost around £12.7m.

Option C, potentially the most expensive at an estimated £14m, would be almost the same as option B except the Wolverhampton Road would only go across the roundabout in one direction, northbound, and a one-way link from the M5 to Churchbridge would be created.

The final scheme, estimated at around £12.9m, would see a traffic junction created similar to that at Burnt Tree towards Dudley.

If funding is approved, it is hoped work could start in March 2016.

## 102 reasons to be cheerful for Phoebe



Phoebe Cotter celebrates her 102nd birthday with great niece Emma Hollis at The Gables Care Home, Oldbury

CAKE and songs were the order of the day when one of the Black Country's oldest residents celebrated her 102nd birthday.

Centenarian Phoebe Cotter welcomed family and friends to a party at The Gables Care Home in Oldbury.

Originally from Handsworth, the former Marks and Spencer seamstress enjoyed a cake and a medley of songs from family friend and professional singer, Shani Moore.

Niece Pauline Starkey, aged 69 from Lavinia Road, Halesowen, was at the

party with husband David and daughter Emma. She said: "Long life runs in the family. She has a sister, Lillian in Cornwall, who is 95, and her brother Bill was 96 when he died."

### Music

"I don't know what her secret is really, she has always been so ill and all the family has had to look after her all her life."

"She does love her music, she did ballroom dancing and won medals for it, so perhaps that helps."

Born in Chapel Street, Handsworth, a month before the Titanic sank, Phoebe was the fifth of 10 siblings. She had no children herself but has many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

She was married to childhood sweetheart Fred, who died in 1980, and loves to paint, knit and sew, and made all of her sisters' wedding dresses herself. Mrs Cotter lived in several areas of Birmingham, before moving to The Gables four years ago and used to enjoy weekend breaks in Bewdley.

## Luke will explore origin of universe

STUDENT Luke Jew is on the brink of going where no man has gone before by exploring the origin of the universe in the first few seconds after the Big Bang.

The scientist from Stourbridge is delighted that American cosmologists have announced that they have opened a window beyond the Milky Way to see traces from the split-second after the Big Bang 14 billion years ago.

Luke, 23, and a team from Oxford University, where he is studying for his doctorate at Oriol College, are calibrating a telescope in the South African desert.

"We will be filtering out the Milky Way to explore the area opened up by this pinprick which was announced at the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics," said Luke, a former Oldswinford Hospital School pupil.

"The discovery, made by an international collaboration from the Bicep — Background Imaging of Cosmic Extragalactic Polarisation — telescope at the South Pole, is the Holy Grail of cosmology. It will probably win a Nobel prize because, for the first time, it proves the theory of primordial gravitational waves, which are an echo of the Big Bang which caused the universe to expand rapidly and hugely — something we call inflation."

Luke will return to South Africa this spring to work on the project in the Karoo desert.

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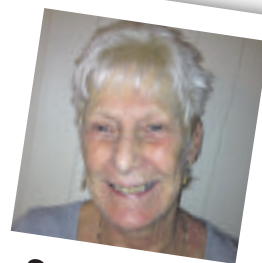
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# Cash is donated to help school buy two minibuses

PUPILS can board new minibuses worth more than £30,000 thanks to donations and fundraising.

Staff and students at Sunfield School, near Stourbridge, have taken delivery of two nine seater minibuses.

They will be available to take the youngsters on trips including visiting swimming baths, leisure centres and attractions.

The residential school, in Woodman Lane, Clent, supports children with a range of learning needs including autism.

Volunteers have dug deep to help with the fundraising efforts in recent months. Many have organised events, made donations and taken part in last September's Great Black

Country Run. That money, combined with other charitable donations, totalled the £31,640 needed to buy two Renault Traffic minibuses.

Sunfield chief executive, Michael Frosch, said the minibuses were important for pupils. "It is vital for their development and wellbeing that they have the opportunity to experience and enjoy the local area and people within the community," he said. "These minibuses help open up the world to our young people. Without them these trips for learning and leisure are almost impossible."

Sunfield still needs to raise funds for a car to transport smaller groups. Donations can be made through [www.sunfield.org.uk](http://www.sunfield.org.uk) or [www.justgiving.com/sunfieldminibusappeal](http://www.justgiving.com/sunfieldminibusappeal)



Representatives of Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club and local businesses hand over the minibuses

# Women leading way with top police roles

WOMEN are leading the way in policing the West Midlands, with more than half of the region's 10 boroughs now headed by female chief superintendents.

West Midlands Police's local policing units in Wolverhampton, Coventry and Solihull, as well as three in Birmingham, are led by women who together manage more than 3,200 officers, PCSOs and staff.

And the force also has more top posts filled by women than ever before, with Sharon Goosen in charge of the professional standards department, Jo Chilton leading force CID, Sharon Rowe as temporary deputy chief constable, as well as Lisa-Marie Smith heading up the force's legal services team.

Deputy Chief Constable Rowe said: "We're pleased to be making positive steps forward in West Midlands Police while other agencies, particularly the private sector, still see regular accusations of a 'glass ceiling' born out of the small number of women who reach the top in big companies."

# Sadness of trust at the death of couple

HEALTH chiefs have expressed their sadness following the death of a couple who battled to live together in the same residential home.

Jim and Joyce Smith finally won their battle to live together at Island Court residential care home in Dudley in January, but within four days 90-year-old Mrs Smith suffered a massive stroke.

She died on February 10, and her husband, a 96-year-old D-Day veteran, died 20 days later, having been unable to see his wife because of his ill health.

They had been separated since Mr Smith went to live in Island Court in September last year, after being discharged from Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital where he had been treated for a kidney complaint.

## Serious

His wife of 44 years was initially told she would have to stay at her flat in Brunel Court, Wombourne, because her condition was not serious enough to warrant full-time care.

But she was eventually allowed to move into Island Court at the end of January after being taken into hospital herself.

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust, which manages social care in the county, said it wished to express its sympathy to the family of Mr and Mrs Smith.

A statement issued by the trust added: "As a provider of community health and adult social care services, supporting people to live as independently as possible is one of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust's key priorities. "We constantly review

by Mark Andrews

and reassess the requirements of the needs of all our service users to ensure they receive the appropriate level of care and in the most suitable place.

"In January, we were able to place Mrs Smith with her husband and were very saddened to hear she died shortly after.

"Wherever possible we would want to keep people together and would regular review their needs to ensure that, as their needs change, the care they receive continues to be the most appropriate."

Mrs Smith's daughter Diane Fellows, aged 63, of Gordon Avenue, Lanesfield, said she believed the stress of begin apart had added to her mother's ill health.

She explained: "They were a devoted couple, and it broke my mother's heart when they were apart."

The couple had both been widowed when they met at Diane's wedding on March 17, 1969, and were married a year to the day.

Mr Smith's funeral at Gornal Wood Crematorium last week was on what would have been the couple's 44th wedding anniversary.

# Bishop says that his new job is bostin'

THE new Bishop of Dudley was ordained at a ceremony in London this week.

Canon Graham Usher is taking over the role and was ordained and consecrated as a bishop by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, during in a special service in St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday.

Mr Usher said: "I'm really looking forward, though with some degree of apprehension, to the Ordination and Consecration service in St Paul's Cathedral. I'm humbled that so many people want to be there or have assured me of their prayers. I'm delighted that close friends will be joining the Archbishop of Canterbury and the other bishops in taking part in the service. As they say in the Black Country, it will be bostin'."

Mr Usher will be formally welcomed to the Diocese of Worcester on May 3 at Top Church, High Street, Dudley at 4pm and installed in Worcester Cathedral at 4pm on May 4.

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# A vision of Paradise in Brum's £160m scheme

THESE images show the new vision for Birmingham's Paradise Circus, as a £160 million regeneration scheme gets set to start 'within months'.

A sweeping outdoor route shaped by modern offices, shops and public spaces will be created to rejuvenate the tired city centre location, under dramatic new plans.

The concrete surroundings of the Central Library, which shut after the new £188m Library of Birmingham opened last September, will be demolished as part of the revamp. Paradise Circus, which is home to shops, a pub and restaurants, will be overhauled in a scheme developers described as a 'one-in-a-lifetime' opportunity.

Visitors will have a clear view from a re-landscaped Chamberlain Square and clock tower, next to Birmingham Town Hall, up through to the Hall of Memory for the first time in decades.

### Hoped

The scheme will take the layout of the busy thoroughfare back in time, reminiscent of the area prior to the developments in the 1960s.

Work will begin on the first phase of the multi-million pound project by May, with more major building work taking place early next year.

It is hoped that the first phase of the high-profile project is completed by 2017/18. Developer Argent is behind the Paradise Circus redevelopment and firm director Rob Groves said all major milestones for the scheme has now been passed and work can get under way.

Officials say the development was key to boosting business and enterprise in the city linking with aspirations to expand the commercial district. The first phase of the scheme



An artist's impression, looking towards the Chamberlain Clock Tower



An image shows New Central Street looking towards the Hall of Memory

will also include a revised road layout with traffic rerouted the site. More than 250,000 sq ft of Grade A office space will be also built.

The plans, which are only initial designs at this stage, show access to Summer Row, which is also home to bars, nightclubs and top-end eateries, with no tunnels underneath.

Paradise Circus' redevelopment

forms part of a wider vision called the Big City Plan. More than 5,000 new homes, 1.5m sqft of office space and new walking and cycling routes are planned to improve the surroundings of the city centre.

Mr Groves said: "This is going to be a game-changer in the way that Birmingham is connected, and how it achieves the Big City Plan."

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Join this comprehensive tour and discover the delights of old Ceylon with its sacred caves, ancient temples and lost cities, ending with two days relaxing on one of Sri Lanka's idyllic tropical beaches. Travel on return scheduled flights from London Heathrow and stay in charming hand-picked three-star hotels, with daily breakfast and dinner included.

One of the first adventures on the itinerary is the famous Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage which boasts a herd of over 75 animals from matriarchs to calves and their daily bath in the river provides a stunning photo opportunity.

Some of the other included tours are to the 600 foot granite tower called Sigiriya, or the Lion Rock, known for its ancient murals of 'cloud maidens'; to Kandy, Sri Lanka's last Royal capital; to the amazing cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site; and to a well-known tea estate and spice garden, staying at the four-star Grand Hotel, originally the summer home of one of the Governors of Ceylon.

For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.



**Thirteen days**      **£1,799\***  
**Various departure dates**

#### PRICE INCLUDES:

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- Visit to a tea estate and spice garden
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\* various according to departure date please go to website for the latest prices

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744 ATOL 3430)

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## star★extraTRAVEL

### Hong Kong and the treasures of Thailand

THIS escorted holiday combines Hong Kong and Bangkok, with a stay on the bank of the River Kwai followed by the chance to rest and relax in a beach-side resort.

The first part of the holiday is spent in Hong Kong where there is plenty of time to explore this extraordinary place. There are also two optional excursions on offer. A Hong Kong Island tour, which will highlight some of the main attractions and a visit to the former Portuguese colony of Macau, located 40 miles across the Pearl River Delta.

An internal flight takes you to Bangkok where there is an included guided tour of this wonderful city followed by a khlong canal cruise. You will also be taken to the floating markets at Damnoen Saduak and the 70-acre Rose Garden on another included excursion.

Perhaps the highlight of the holiday will be the included River Kwai and 'Death Railway' excursion, journeying on the train to Nam Tok Sai Yok Noi on the infamous route through the Thai jungle.

Finally you arrive at the picture postcard resort of Cha-Am, set beside the blue waters of the Gulf of Thailand where you can relax and enjoy this beachside hotel. Again two optional excursions are offered to nearby Hua Hin, the favourite holiday resort of the Thai Royal family, and the riverside town of Phetchaburi.



**FROM £1,599\***

12 days      Various departure dates

#### Price includes

- Return flights and internal flight
- Nine nights hotel accommodation including six breakfasts and one lunch
- Full-day Bangkok City tour and Klong Cruise
- Full day guided visit including the Bridge over the River Kwai and the Death Railway
- Free time in Hong Kong and Cha-Am Beach Resort
- Air-conditioned coach travel overseas
- Services of a tour manager overseas

Single rooms subject to availability

\* various according to departure dates please go to website for the latest prices and availability

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# Hard to keep faith with Paloma

## Albums

PART of Paloma Faith's appeal has always been her quirky individuality and, solid album as her third offering **A Perfect Contradiction** (Sony) is, some of her rough-and-ready Hackney charm has got lost in the mix as top producers put their spin on her sound.

Among these is man-of-the-moment Pharrell Williams with the opener, *Can't Rely On You*, a close cousin to Blurred Lines using that loose funky

Marvin Gaye-style sound. It does have the bonus of Paloma at her most sassy. This album tends to toe the slick R&B line too closely and vocals get shouty rather than passionate. Best is 60s retro number *Only Love Can Hurt Like This* but even that's more Cilla Black than Dusty Springfield.

Kettering's Temples are preparing for a summer of love on their debut album **Sun Structures** (Heavenly). It is a glorious slice of unrepentantly

retro psychedelic pop. Take a pinch of late period Beatles, early Pink Floyd, The Byrds, The Moody Blues and you get one tasty witches' brew. Highlights include pop gem *Shelter Song* and the glam rocking *Keep In The Dark*.

Bretton's second album **War Room Stories** (Believe) blends rock and electronica with skittering percussion. It is worth checking out if you like Foals or Bombay Bicycle Club.

LEON BURAKOWSKI

## Farewell, here's to next time

Spiers & Boden,  
Wulfrun Hall

TEMPORARY Bellowhead breakaways John Spiers and Jon Boden are on their last ever farewell tour as a duo, for now at least.

You can't get away from the distinct sound of Bellowhead because fine fiddle player and vocalist Boden is the voice of the collective, although with accordion player Spiers he seems to have a much softer edge. The pair opened with *The Rambling Sailor*, a lively traditional tune. This gave way to a softer air, *Courting Too Slow* and gave Boden the opportunity to really settle in his fiddle with the bellows of Spiers. It gave him a chance to show off his voice which can often be overwhelmed with Bellowhead.

They upped the tempo with a couple of jigs which eventually opened with the luscious tones of Boden's fiddle after being put off his stride by his cohort's attempts at dancing. The *Sloe Gin* set towards the end left the audience looking forward to their next last farewell tour.

DANNY FARRAGHER

## Reviews



Amy Ellen Richardson leads a 1920s style routine

## Musical makes a really big splash

**Singin' In The Rain, Birmingham Hippodrome**  
THIS West End show has splashed down in Birmingham with a spectacular production conjuring the glamour and wisecracking wit of Hollywood's golden age.

The story about a hopeless silent movie turned into a musical provides lots of laughs, some great songs – including *Good Mornin'* and *You Are My Lucky Star* – with dazzling dance routines and the impressive effect of a downpour on stage.

Such is the deluge that those in the front row may need sowsters. The orchestra

has taken the sensible precaution of abandoning their pit for a perch above the stage.

James Leece has matinee idol charm as Don Lockwood. He is matched by golden-voiced leading lady Amy Ellen Richardson and Stephane Anelli's fabulously frenetic Cosmo Brown, whose *Make 'Em Laugh* number is breathtaking. Add Faye Tozer's comic turn as Lockwood's helium-voiced co-star and you have a shouldn't-be-missed show. It continues at the Hippodrome until April 5.

LEON BURAKOWSKI

## Plenty of pearls by Oysters

Oysterband,  
Robin2, Bilston

THE Oysterband's link to their folk ceilidh roots seems to be getting weaker. If you went on their performance at the Robin, you wouldn't necessarily put them in the folk camp at all.

Front man John Jones kicked off at a high level going straight into *When I'm Up I Can't Get Down*, which has a Cajun feel to it. The band is touring on the back of their new album, *Diamonds On The Water*, which is their first collection of new songs for seven years.

Oysterband are excellent musicians and the album deserves all the accolades it has received with songs such as *A River Runs* which has an 80s feel about it, reminiscent of REM. The first nod to their folk/ceilidh roots was their stomping *Street of Dreams* from their 1999 album *Here I Stand*.

They ended the set with a nice touch as each member of the band left the stage individually with Ian Telfer being the last with the lone sound of his fiddle fading away into the darkness.

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## Coronation Street

Two days departing June 8



last time, share an exclusive opportunity to walk down the famous cobbles of the nation's favourite street and have a picture taken outside the Rovers Return.

The behind-the-scenes tour explores the studios containing some of the soap's best known sets. Visit the cast dressing rooms, reminisce with footage of memorable scenes and iconic props and visit actual room sets opened up to the public for the first time.

This two-day trip also includes a visit to the charming medieval city of Chester, where there will be plenty of time to explore the Rows – two tiers of covered walkways found along the four main streets, and the beautiful red sandstone cathedral. There's also a great variety of shopping from independent boutiques to high street stores and plenty of places for something to eat and drink.

★ **PRICE FROM £119**

Manchester is home to the famous Coronation Street set and this is a unique opportunity to visit the former site following the move to MediaCityUK.

Open to the public for a limited time only discover where 53 years of TV history was made.

Quay Street, Manchester is the original home of Coronation Street, one of the most watched programmes on British television. As some of the privileged few allowed on the set for one

### INFO

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to the Coronation Street set in Manchester
- Visit to Chester
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by  
Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Pick of the week

## Lindisfarne and the Alnwick Gardens

Three days departing June 13 and Sept 19

★ **PRICE FROM £169**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to The Alnwick Garden
- Visits to Lindisfarne, Durham and Bamburgh
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## Chelsea Flower Show, Wisley and Hampton Court

Four days departing May 22

★ **PRICE FROM £319**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half board accommodation
- Entrance to Hampton Court Palace Gardens
- Entrance to RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- Entrance to RHS Gardens Wisley
- Free time in London and Windsor
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Chatsworth House and the Peak District

Two days departing July 20

★ **PRICE FROM £89.<sup>95</sup>**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Chatsworth House and gardens
- Tour of the Peak District
- Evening entertainment
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Longleat Safari and Adventure Park

Two days departing June 21 and October 11

★ **PRICE FROM £119\***

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Day ticket to Longleat Safari and Adventure Park
- Visit to Bath
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

\*Child price from £109 - conditions apply

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## The Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Rail and Steam

Four days departing August 1

★ **PRICE FROM £299**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Two three-course evening meals
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- Circular Cruise on the SS Sir Walter Scott
- Visits to Edinburgh, Aberfoyle and Gretna Green
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Emmerdale and the Best of Yorkshire

Three days departing  
May 9, June 27, September 19

★ **PRICE FROM £139**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Tours of Emmerdale country, Last of the Summer Wine country and the Yorkshire Dales
- Visit to York
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## Wimbledon

Two days departing July 5 and 6

★ **PRICE FROM £139**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Full day at Wimbledon with a reserved seat on No.1 Court to see the finals of the Junior and Veteran events
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## Beamish and the North York Moors Railway

Four days departing June 20, October 10

★ **PRICE FROM £249**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Admission to Beamish - The Living Museum of the North
- Ride on the North York Moors Railway
- Visits to Whitby, Harrogate and Richmond
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## Dubrovnik, the Dalmatian Coast and Montenegro

Eight days various departure dates

★ **PRICE FROM £829**

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Tour of Dubrovnik
- Visits to Trogir and Mostar
- Tour of Montenegro
- Visit to Split and tour of the Emperor Diocletian's monumental palace
- Visit to Krka National Park and its waterfalls
- Escorted by a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

## Amsterdam, Arnhem and a Bridge too Far

Four days departing May 30

★ **PRICE FROM £249**

- Return coach travel and ferry crossings
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit to the Arnhem Oosterbeek Military Cemetery
- Entrance to the Airborne Museum
- Free time in Arnhem
- Full day in Amsterdam
- Services of a tour manager and tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Lake Bled and Ljubljana

Eight days various departure dates

★ **PRICE FROM £659**

- Return flights
- Seven nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided walking tour of Lake Bled
- Guided city tour to Ljubljana
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- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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## Folk highlights from city scenes

BUSKING folk rockers Blackbeard's Tea Party from York will be bringing their eclectic style of music to the Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, on Thursday, April 3. Supported by Blatherskites.

Wolverhampton singer/songwriter Dan Whitehouse is playing the Hare & Hounds supporting Simone Felice on Wednesday, tickets are £12. Before that, Dan has a Folk For Free gig today at Birmingham Symphony Hall Bar at 5.30pm.

Other highlights include a sold-out 40th anniversary Runrig concert at the Symphony Hall on Saturday and Scottish quartet The Tannerhill Weavers on Wednesday at The Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath.

## Jasper bringing rock mates on tour

JASPER Carrott is bringing his Stand Up And Rock comedy and music tour to Wolverhampton, Dudley and Birmingham. He will be joined by veteran rock drummer Bev Bevan, from The Move and ELO, his Move bandmate guitarist Trevor Burton with Geoff Turton, formerly ex-Rockin' Berries, and Joy Strachan-Brain of Quill.

The show is at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on September 16, Dudley Town Hall (October 16), Birmingham Town Hall (Oct 21), Sutton Coldfield Town Hall (Oct 30 and 31) and Lichfield Garrick Theatre (November 11 and 12).

# Miranda invites her chums to join her for a big party

## A classic bite of the Big Apple

LEONARD Bernstein's classic 1950s musical West Side Story, relocating Romeo and Juliet to the youth gangs of New York, has been revived in a spectacular production coming to Birmingham.

Featuring popular songs Somewhere, Maria, Tonight, I Feel Pretty and America, and using the original Jerome Robbins choreography, West Side Story is at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday, April 1 to 12.

It stars Katie Hall as Maria. She played Christine in The Phantom of the Opera in the West End and on tour. She was also a contestant in the BBC TV search for Oliver's Nancy, I'd Do Anything. Opposite her as Tony is Louis Maskell, whose credits include Scrooge The Musical.

Call the box office on 0844 871 3011.



A dance scene from New York musical West Side Story Picture by Alastair Muir

## QUEEN of comedy Miranda Hart brings her 'My, What I Call, Live Show' to the West Midlands for four mega-venue performances during April.

Hart's hilarious but essentially gentle blend of slapstick and self-deprecating humour has been a massive success with the public via her eponymously titled sit-com which has run for three series on BBC TV. She has been warmly received by an audience fed up with the rampant cynicism, crudeness and cruelty of today's comedy scene.

The naughty but nice comedienne will be inviting chums to join her for a party — complete with dancing and karaoke — at the LG Arena on Friday, April 4. She returns to the city, this time at central venue the NIA, for three consecutive nights from April 8. That number of big venue gigs puts her in the comedy elite of stadium-filling humorists such as Michael McIntyre, Eddie Izzard, Lee Evans and Peter Kay.

For Miranda ticket information contact 0844 338 8000 about the LG and 0844 338 0338 for NIA dates.

Theatre highlights this week include the arrival of vintage musical Seven Brides For Seven Brothers at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Monday for six days. The American frontier tale stars Sam Attwater and Helena Blackman.



Well hello it's Miranda Hart

Also at the Grand until Saturday is hard-hitting play The Two Worlds of Charlie F which features serving and former soldiers and looks at the impact of injury on themselves, their family and friends.

With the gap between rich and poor apparently growing, this may be an ideal time for Birmingham Rep's revival of Brecht and Weill's Mack The Knife musical The Threepenny Opera, continuing until April 12.

## X-Factor stars and 80s nostalgia

LIVERPUDLIAN X-Factor runner-up Rebecca Ferguson is in concert at the Symphony Hall tonight, while the most recent crop of X-Factor stars — including 2013 winner Sam Bailey play the LG Arena tomorrow and Saturday.

Other highlights include the return of Martin Fry's 80s outfit ABC, ready to shoot a Poison Arrow again tomorrow at the Symphony Hall. Nostalgia for that era continues at Bilston's Robin 2 with Big Country on Saturday featuring original members Bruce Watson and Mark Brzezicki. Boy George at Digbeth's Institute on Tuesday will probably put emphasis on his new album This Is What I Do rather than Culture Club memories.

## The dream still goes on for Susan

JUST a few tickets are left for Susan Boyle's concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Wednesday, April 2, as part of her first major nationwide tour.

The 52-year-old Scottish singer's last appearance in the city was a brief performance as part of autobiographical show I Dreamed A Dream at Birmingham Hippodrome in 2012.

Next month it will be five years since the famous TV moment on Britain's Got Talent when the frumpy spinster from West Lothian blew apart viewers' preconceptions with her soaring voice. Call the box office on 0121 345 0600.

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**Amanda Mealing**

## Casualty

**BBC1, 9.20pm**  
Medical drama-lovers may be rather confused about which show they're watching tonight. That's because former Holby City stalwart Amanda Mealing, better known as ex-director of surgery Connie Beauchamp, is joining the Casualty staff. She's reprising her role as the manipulative and feisty medic who might be too busy saving a man from prison to rub her new colleagues up the wrong way on her first day at work. Another devious female – Ash's daughter Ella – does, however, get up to mischief, which leaves her dad with no option but to treat her with tough love.

**6.00 Breakfast. 7.00 Live Formula 1** – Malaysian Grand Prix: Qualifying. **9.30 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.00 James Martin: Home Comforts. 11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts. 12.00 Football Focus. 12.45 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 1.15 Formula 1 – Malaysian Grand Prix: Qualifying Replay. 1.45 Reflex. 2.00 The Special. 4.15 Final Score. 5.15 Film: Shrek. (2001)**

**6.40 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.**

**7.00 The Voice UK.** Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the semi-final, in which the remaining acts perform individually and with their coaches. Plus, performances by Enrique Iglesias and Sheryl Crow.

**9.10 The National Lottery Live.** Kate Garraway reveals the results of the Lotto and the Thunderball draws, with music by Lisa Stansfield.

**9.20 Casualty.** Former director of surgery Connie Jauchump returns to the hospital as a consultant in the ED and makes quite an impression on her first day. Ash takes his wayward daughter in hand.

**10.00 News at Ten.**

**10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Arsenal v Manchester City at the Emirates Stadium and Crystal Palace v Chelsea at Selhurst Park. National Lottery Update.

**11.55 The Football League Show.** Including highlights of Burnley v Leicester City.

**2.15 (BST) Weatherview. 2.20 BBC News.**

**7.05 Film:** The Saint in New York. (1938) **7.15 Film:** The Saint Strikes Back. (1939) **8.20** The Living Planet. (R) **9.15** The Living Planet. (R) **10.10** The Nature of Britain. (R) **11.00** The Nature of Britain. (R) **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **1.00** The Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. (R) **1.30** The 39 Steps. (1935) **2.40** James Mason: Talking Pictures. (R) **3.20** Film: North by Northwest. (1959) **5.30** Mountain Gorilla. (R) **6.30** **Flag It!** Tracy Martin and Charlie Ross examine a Zulu shield and spear and an arts and crafts candlestick at the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford.

**7.30** **Dad's Army.** Wilson James Ramsay gets the platoon out of the pub and on parade, leaving Mainwaring to tackle a suspected IRA terrorist. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)

**8.00** **The Perfect Maccormack & Wise.** The duo put a new spin on making breakfast.

**8.30** **The Plantagenets.** Robert Bartlett examines how the dynasty fought to expand its power across the British Isles and win back land in France, and looks at the creation of a national parliament. (R)

**9.30** **QI.** With Jeremy Clarkson and Bill Bailey. (R)

**10.00** **Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle.** The comedian explores the topic of London.

**10.30 Film:** We Need to Talk About Kevin. (2011) Premiere. Drama, with Tilda Swinton. (R)

**11.00** **QI.** With Jeremy Clarkson and Bill Bailey. (R)

**11.30 (BS)** **The Big Tree.** (R)

**6.00 CITY:** Dino Dan. **6.10 Dino Dan** (R) **6.25 Matt Hatter** Chronicles. (R) **6.45 Animals**. (R) **6.55 Animals**. (R) **7.00 Animals**. (R) **7.10 On Nom Stories**. (R) **7.15 On Nom Stories**. (R) **7.20 On Nom Stories**. (R) **7.30 Scrambled!** **9.25 TV** News. **9.30 Murder**, She Wrote. (R) **10.25 Dinner Date**. (R) **11.25 TV** News: Weather. **11.35 The Crooked Heart**. (R) **12.05 The Unforgettable Gordon Jackson**. (R) **12.35 Film:** Junior. (1994) **2.35 The Chase**. (R) **3.35 Midsomer Murders**. (R) **5.30 Region 1** (R) **5.45 TV** News: Weather. **5.45 TV** News: Weather.

**10.00 You've Been Framed! Top 100 Shockers.** Harry Hill presents a countdown of 100 memorable videos not for the soft-hearted, featuring damage, destruction, sexual shaves and near misses.

**7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The Georgie duo take control of Peter Andre in a Celebrity Get Out of Me Area. Little Ant & Dec talk politics with London Mayor Boris Johnson.

**8.25 The Cube.** A Londoner hopes to win enough money to take his family to Australia, while a police officer from the West Midlands thinks she is tough enough to walk away with the jackpot.

**9.25 Law & Order: UK.** A skeleton is found in the boot of a car.

**10.25 The Americans.** The spies infiltrate a millionaire contractor's facility.

**11.25 TV** News: Weather.

**11.40 Through the Keyhole.** Eamonn Holmes and Martine McCutcheon join Dave Byrne.

**12.35 Jackpot247.** **4.00 (BST)** in Plain Sight. (R) **4.40 TV** Nightcrasher.

**1.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Grid  
**7.00** Trans World Sport. **8.00** The  
Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody  
Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Frasier.  
(R) **9.55** The Big Bang theory. (R)  
**10.25** The Bill. (R) **11.00** **11.30**  
**10.50** How I Met Your Mother.  
**11.15** How I Met Your Mother.  
**11.40** The Simpsons. (R) **12.10**  
The Simpsons. (R) **12.40**  
Under the Big Green Lights. (R) **1.40**  
Channel 4 Racing. **4.20** Come Dine  
with Me. (R) **5.05** Come Dine with  
Me. (R) **5.50** Channel 4 Racing:  
The Dubai World Cup.  
**6.35** Channel 4 News.  
**7.05** **Maverick's Agents of SHIELD.**  
Coulson and the team's  
search for the Clairvoyant  
sees them boarding a  
mystery train that seems to  
be headed for certain  
destruction. Clark Gregg  
stars in the fantasy  
adventure. (R)  
**8.00** **Hostages.** Brian decides to  
go to the police, Duncan  
makes a decision that will  
bitterly regret, Logan gives  
Sandrine one more chance  
and Nina hears shocking  
news.  
**9.00.** **Film: The Mechanic.** (2011)  
A military hitman teaches his  
tricked mentor's son the  
micks of the trade so they can  
join forces to seek  
vengeance. Action thriller  
reunites starring Jason  
Statham and Ben Foster.  
**10.45** **Film: Beverly Hills Cop III.**  
(1994) Maverick cop Axel  
Foley's investigation of a  
murder leads him to a  
complicating race operating  
from a theme park. Comedy  
adventure sequel, with Eddie  
Murphy and Judge Reinhold.  
**12.50** **Film: Notorious.** (2009)  
**3.55** **BST** Abductees. (R) **4.05**

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Access.**  
**10.05 Meerkat Manor. (R) 10.35 Film:** The Bridge at Remagen. (1969) Second World War adventure, starring George Segal.  
**12.55 The Bridge to Nowhere.** (1977) Fact-based Second World War drama, with Dirk Bogarde.  
**4.15 Film:** Joe Kidd. (1972) Western, starring Clint Eastwood.  
**5.55 The Columbo: Mind Over Mayhem.** (1974) Detective drama, with Peter Falk.  
**7.20 Longmire.** The discovery of a woman's body leads Walt and Vic to the seedy strip bar on an oil-rig town in the next county, where they find a link to a Mennonite community.  
**8.10 NCIS.** Gibbs tries to find out why the agents are being forced to take prison guards, while Tony and Jeanne are held hostage by a drug dealer. (R)  
**9.05 5 News Weekend.**  
**9.10 Greatest Kids' TV Shows.** A countdown of the 50 best-loved TV shows, with contributions by Phillip Schofield, Chris Tarrant, David Harner, Johnnie Ball, Peter Dinklage and Valerie Singleton. (R)  
**12.10 SuperCano.** Live interactive gaming. **4.00 (BST) Wildlife SOS.** Newly hatched ducklings are rescued from a drain.  
**5.40 Make It Big.** Keren and Rebecca argue. (R) **4.50 The Funtasy Folley Show.** Double-bill. Daphne is in a too mood. (R) **5.00 Angels of Jarm.** The children argue about their nats. (R) **5.10 Ana's Helpline.** Ellen the ostrich learns about left and right. (R) **5.20 Angels of Jarm.** Otto climbs a tree. (R) **5.30 The Funtasy Folley Show.** (R) **5.40 Ana's Helpline.**

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **7.20** Doctor Who **8.15** Top Gear **9.20** Film: Old School (2003) **10.50** Family Guy

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** David Attenborough's First Life **10.00** Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History **9.00** Inspector D Luca **10.50** Chas & Dave: Take Me **11.50** Squeeze: Take Me I'm Yours

**ITV2**  
**3.45** Film: Honey (2003) **5.40** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **7.50** Film: Whip It (2009) **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** The Big Reunion Special **10.50** Crazy Beaches **11.20** Film: The Butterfly Effect (2004)

**ITV3**  
**3.30** Film: Man About the House (1974) **5.20** Inspector Morse **7.25** Rosemary & Thyme **8.25** Doc Martin **9.25** Joanna Lumley's Greek Odyssey **10.25** Cold Blood

**ITV4**  
**1.55** Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **6.10** Film: Kelly's Heroes (1970) **Second World War** adventure, starring Clint Eastwood. **9.00** Film: The Blues Brothers (1980) **11.35** Film: The Parole Officer (2002)

**E4**  
**0.02** 2 Broke Girls **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00** Film: Because I Said So (2000) **10.00** RuPaul's Drag Race: Weird and Wonderful

**Film4**  
**2.55** Swiss Family Robinson (1960) **5.35** Ice Age (2002) **7.10** Legend (1985) **9.00** Hanna (2011) Action thriller, starring Saoirse Ronan.

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## CHOICE



Shaun Evans

Endeavour  
ITV, 8pm

The summer of 1966 – it may have been the era of Swinging London and England winning the World Cup, but as Morse prequel Endeavour returns for a highly anticipated new series, don't expect to see the young copper grooving around Oxford with a smile on his face and a copy of The Beatles' Revolver tucked under his arm. Instead, the first episode finds Morse (Shaun Evans) under pressure as he returns to work following a four-month absence, only to find himself investigating the death of an unidentified man, who plummets from the top of a council building.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **8.00** Live Formula 1 – Malaysian Grand Prix. **11.15** Sunday Politics. **12.30** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** NoRuz: The Persian Spring. **1.45** Formula 1 – Malaysian Grand Prix Replay. **3.45** Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole. **4.15** Regional Programme. **4.45** Songs of Praise. **5.20** Pointless Celebrities. **(R)**

**6.05** **Blandings.** Connie plans to marry Freddie off to Sir Gregory's niece. Last in the series.

**6.35** **BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.

**7.00** **Countryfile.** Matt Baker helps out on his family farm in Co Durham, Adam Henson finds sheep in Cornwall more suited to the Swiss Alps and Jules Hudson visits the Severn Valley Railway, including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the team visit Scone Palace, near Perth, where items include an ugly family brooch, a 15th-century book, 30-year-old T-shirts and a 230-year-old tea caddy. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.

**9.00** **The Musketeers.** A rift develops between the friends when they discover d'Artagnan knows Milady, giving the Cardinal's spy the ammunition she needs to wreak her revenge. Last in the series.

**10.00** **BBC News:** Regional News.

**10.25** Match of the Day 2.

**11.25** Football League Trophy Highlights.

**12.00** Weatherview. **12.05** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** Countryfile. **(R)** **7.00** Gardeners' World. **(R)** **7.30** Match of the Day. **(R)** **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.30** Living Famously. **(R)** **1.30** Film: Foreign Correspondent. (1940) **3.25** Film: I Confess. (1953) **5.00** Flog It!

**6.00** **The Hairy Bikers:** Restoration Road Trip. Si King and Dave Myers work on steam train the Night Owl, forging a steel wheel taller than they are for the biggest locomotive restoration in Britain. Last in the series. **(R)**

**7.00** **Great Barrier Reef.** Monty Halls explores Australia's underwater ecosystem, beginning with a look at the coral reef's structure and the many species of wildlife that inhabit it. **(R)**

**8.00** **Border Country: The Story of Britain's Lost Middleland.** Part one of two. Historian and MP Rory Stewart examines the impact and legacy of Hadrian's Wall, exploring the landscape, oral history and archaeology of the region.

**9.00** **Louis Theroux's LA Stories.** Louis explores the American attitude to death as he visits Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre in West Hollywood, where he meets people battling against serious illnesses.

**10.00** **QI XL.** Extended edition. With Julia Zemiro, Sue Perkins and Ross Noble. **(R)**

**10.45** **Top of the Pops 1977: Big Hits.** With Rod Stewart, Queen and the Stranglers.

**11.45** **Film: War Requiem.** (1989)

**1.10** Sign Zone: Countryfile. **(R)**

**2.10** Holly City. **(R)** **3.10** Silk. **(R)**

**4.10** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. **(R)** **6.25** Matt Hatter. **Chronicles.** **(R)** **6.45** Animals. **(R)** **6.55** Animals. **(R)** **7.00** Animals. **(R)** **7.10** Om Nom Stories. **(R)** **7.15** Om Nom Stories. **(R)** **7.20** Sooty. **(R)** **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. **(R)** **10.30** The Unforgettable Kenneth Williams. **(R)** **11.00** ITV News.

**11.10** River Monsters. **12.10** Agatha Christie's Marple. **(R)** **2.05** Big Star's Little Star. **(R)** **3.05** Film: Moonraker. (1979) **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.50** ITV News.

**6.00** **Catchphrase Mother's Day Special.** Kimberley Walsh, David Williams and Emma Willis are joined by their mothers to "see it and say it" in an attempt to win money for their chosen charities.

**7.00** **Surprise Surprise Mother's Day Special.** Holly Willoughby meets a mum who invented a romper suit for babies in neonatal units, wrestler John Cena gives a fan the VIP treatment and Boyzone surprise a radio station founder.

**8.00** **Endeavour.** New series. Shaun Evans returns as the young Inspector Morse in the first of four feature-length episodes. A baffling suicide throws Morse in at the deep end.

**10.00** **ITV News at Ten: Weather.**

**10.15** **Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Geri Halliwell.** The former Spice Girl talks about fame, family and relationships. **(R)**

**11.15** **The Crocodile Hunter Diaries.** **(R)**

**11.45** **Premiership Rugby Union.** **12.40** The Store. **2.45** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **(R)** **4.10** ITV

NightScreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R)**

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10** Arenacross. **(R)** **6.35** Arenacross. **(R)** **7.00** Mark Webber Tasmania Challenge. **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R)** **9.00** Frasier. **(R)** **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Secret Eaters. **(R)** **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. **(R)** **2.05** The Big Bang Theory. **(R)** **2.35** How I Met Your Mother. **3.00** How I Met Your Mother. **3.30** The Simpsons. **(R)** **4.00** The Simpsons. **(R)** **4.30** Deal or No Deal. **5.30** Film: Home Alone. (1990) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin.

**7.30** Channel 4 News. **8.00** **The Dambusters' Great Escape: Secret History.** The story of the RAF's successful mission to sink the German battleship Tirpitz in November 1944, with eyewitness accounts from surviving crew, fighter pilots and sailors.

**9.00** **Film: The Woman in Black.** (2012) Premiere. A lawyer visits a village to put a deceased client's affairs in order, but finds her house haunted by a vengeful ghost. Horror, with Daniel Radcliffe and Clarian Hinds.

**10.50** **Film: Orphan.** (2009) A couple adopt a nine-year-old Russian girl from an orphanage, but the wife begins to suspect the child may be dangerously disturbed. Horror, with Vera Farmiga and Peter Sarsgaard.

**1.00** The Good Wife. **(R)** **1.45** The Hotel. **(R)** **2.40** Secret Removers. A design-conscious couple in Aberdeen. **(R)** **3.40** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. **(R)** **4.00** SuperScrimps. **(R)** **4.55** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **(R)** **5.05** Deal or No Deal. **(R)**

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. **(R)** **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerbuds. **(R)** **6.25** Bubble Guppies. **(R)** **6.35** The Mr Men Show. **(R)** **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **(R)** **7.10** Roobarb and Custard Too. **(R)** **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. **(R)** **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. **(R)** **7.35** City of Friends. **(R)** **7.45** Toby's Travelling Circus. **(R)** **7.55** Little Princess. **(R)** **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. **(R)** **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. **(R)** **8.35** Rupert Bear. **(R)** **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. **(R)** **9.05** Jelly Jamm. **(R)** **9.20** LazyTown. **(R)** **9.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. **(R)** **9.55** Milkshake! Show Songs. **(R)** **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. **(R)** **10.35** Power Rangers Megaforce. **(R)** **11.10** Film: Hoodwinked. (2005)

**12.35** Film: Gremlins 2: The New Batch. (1990) **2.40** Film: Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot. (1992) **4.20** Film: A Bug's Life. (1998)

**6.10** **Mum of the Year 2014.** Awards ceremony honouring courageous and inspirational women.

**7.05** **5 News Weekend.**

**7.10** **Film: Bulletproof Monk.** (2003) Martial arts thriller, starring Chow Yun-Fat.

**9.00** **Top 40 Ultimate Action Movies.** Vinnie Jones presents a countdown of the best films from the action genre as voted for by viewers. Featuring contributions by Gary Busey, John Carpenter and McG.

**11.55** **Film: Point Break.** (1991) **2.20** SuperCasino. **3.05** Benidorm ER. **(R)** **4.00** Wildlife SOS. **(R)** **4.25** Make It Big. **(R)** **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. **(R)** **5.00** Angels of Jarm. **(R)** **5.20** Angels of Jarm. **(R)** **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. **(R)** **5.40** Hana's Helpline. **(R)**

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** The Voice UK **9.15** Hair: The four remaining contestants fight for a place in the final. **10.15** Family Guy **11.00** American Dad! **11.25** Bluestone 42

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Timeshift: Full Throttle – The Glory Days of British Motorbikes

**8.00** The Review Show **8.00** The Post Who Loved the War: Vol. Gurney **10.00** Mark Lawson Talks to Julian Barnes **11.00** What Do Artists Do All Day?

**ITV2**  
**2.45** Film: Kangaroo Jack (2003) **4.35** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.00** Film: Casper (1995)

**8.00** Film: Two Weeks Notice (2002) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** Party Wright Around the World

**ITV3**  
**3.50** Rosemary & Thyme **4.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00** The Zoo **9.00** Les Dawson: An Audience With That Never Was **10.05** Film: Parenthood (1989)

**ITV4**  
**10.30** Live British Touring Car Championship. Round one from Brands Hatch in Kent. **6.00** Touring Car Legends **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Nighthawks (1981)

**E4**  
**3.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.30** How I Met Your Mother **5.00** The Torrance People **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Grease (1978) **10.15** Rude Tube: All Things Weird and Wonderful

**Film4**  
**3.00** Honey, I Blew Up the Kid (1992) **4.45** Holy Man (1998) **6.55** Three Men and a Cradle (1987) **9.00** Hitman (2007) **10.45** Rising Sun (1993)

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## Film Choices

**MONDAY**  
**Blood Work, Channel 5, 11pm**  
A former FBI agent recuperating from a heart transplant is asked to track down his donor's murderer, and discovers that, far from being a random incident, the crime bears all the hallmarks of a serial killer who has evaded capture for years. Thriller, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. With Anjelica Huston. (2002)

**Little Children, Channel 4, 12.15am**  
Two suburban parents stuck in unhappy marriages seek solace from their dull lives in a clandestine affair. Meanwhile, the arrival of a convicted sex offender in the neighbourhood sends their tightly-knit community into an uproar of suspicion and fear. Drama, starring Kate Winslet and Patrick Wilson. (2006)

**TUESDAY**  
**Skin, BBC1, 11.35pm**  
A black baby in apartheid-era South Africa is born to white parents, who were unaware of their mixed-race ancestry. During her childhood, they fight for her right to be treated the same as white children, but when she falls in love with a black man in her teens, her father disowns her, and she is confronted with the harsh racial divisions in the country. Fact-based drama, with Sophie Okonedo and Sam Neill. (2008)



**Michael Clayton, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**The Holiday, ITV, 10.35pm**  
Two single women living on opposite sides of the Atlantic agree to exchange houses over the Christmas holidays. In their new surroundings, both women unexpectedly encounter prospective partners, but as the house swap draws to a close, difficult decisions have to be made about their blossoming relationships. Romantic comedy, starring Cameron Diaz. (2006)

**THURSDAY**  
**NYC: Tornado Terror, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
New York's deputy mayor receives a warning from his estranged meteorologist wife that the city is about to be hit by a massive tornado, but convincing the residents of the scale of the impending danger proves an uphill struggle. Disaster thriller, starring Nicole de Boer. (2008)

**FRIDAY**  
**Michael Clayton, BBC2, 11.05pm**  
A troubled attorney takes over a high-profile case when a colleague suffers a nervous breakdown and threatens to blow the whistle on corporate corruption. However, as he tries to limit the damage, he uncovers damning proof that will expose a secret group of conspirators – who are prepared to commit murder to keep the evidence buried. Legal thriller, starring George Clooney, Tom Wilkinson and an Oscar-winning Tilda Swinton. (2007)

## Pick of the Week

# New case is too close to home for Martha

Never mix business with pleasure, and never work with your loved ones.

Martha really should have kept those ideas at the forefront of her mind before agreeing to take on the case of her ex-boyfriend Sean.

Instead, she's up to her neck in problems, most of them caused by the fact that she can't consider the facts coolly and dispassionately because of their shared history – and his reappearance has shaken the legal eagle in other ways too.

"Martha has to start to reassess what is really important in her life," says Maxine Peake, who plays her. "This person's arrival forces Martha to remember the person she was and why she embarked on the career she did."

"She realises that things have changed greatly and that her teenage goals and ideals have gone somewhat out of the window."

It's clear to regular viewers that Martha has convinced herself that Sean wouldn't lie to her, and so is blind to the massive holes in his story – holes so big, Clive could repeatedly drive a lorry through them without touching the sides.

In fact, he repeatedly tells her something along similar lines, but instead of making her see sense, his words merely make her dig her heels in and become more determined than ever to clear Sean's name.

"Clive hates her ex-boyfriend and they end up having a massive fight," says Rupert Penry-Jones, Peake's co-star since the series began. "It took a while to shoot but even longer to get over the bruises – we were a bit bashed up! We were throwing each other around and against walls, but how much of it will end up in the final cut I don't know."

To make matters worse, Martha's behaviour makes her colleagues wonder if she has what it takes to lead the firm into the future – and she herself is forced to question her long-term career as a barrister after the verdict is read out...

But what impact will the trial have on Martha and Clive's relationship? After all, it's clear there's a real spark between them. Could they have a future together after all that's happened?

Penry-Jones isn't convinced they do: "I don't know why he decides to suddenly tell her how he feels, but I don't think you can always explain these things."

"He's looking at her: she's dancing, she's free, so he thinks he'll give it a go. I think there's always hope for them. I think she's who he wants, in the end, but I'm not sure he'll ever get her."

"Martha likes being opposite Clive in court," says Peake of the bond between the two characters. "He's a great barrister so she has to up her game. It can create conflict, but they both enjoy competing against each other. That's where their spark is created."

"Whether Martha could handle or want a serious long-term relationship is another thing..."



**Maxine Peake stars in Silk, Monday, BBC1, 9pm**

## Best of the Rest

**MONDAY**  
**The Widower**  
ITV, 9pm  
This drama, charting Malcolm Webster's 13-year trail of murder and deceit, has gone down a storm with the masses; the opening episode alone attracted more than five million viewers. In the latest offering, Malcolm (Reece Shearsmith) and Simone's (Archie Panjabi) relationship is like a runaway train; they are engaged and undergoing IVF treatment for a child. However, DS Charlie Henry (John Hannah) gets suspicious when Malcolm is treasurer of an angling club, and is secretly embezzling funds. Raiding Webster's home he finds stolen laptops and an unlicensed firearm. Although Malcolm is taken in for questioning, Charlie is fuming when Malcolm is cleared of the embezzlement, theft and firearms offences.

**Our Gay Wedding: The Musical**  
Channel 4, 10pm  
On Saturday March 29, same-sex marriage becomes legal in England and Wales, and Benjamin Till and Nathan Taylor will be one of the first couples to tie the knot. But that's not the only thing that makes their ceremony so special. Benjamin is a composer, whose credits include A1: The Road Musical, while Nathan is a performer who has appeared in numerous West End shows. So, how better to celebrate their historic union than with a full-on musical production, including sung vows and ensemble numbers featuring the whole congregation? If you weren't lucky enough to get an invite, Channel 4 is bringing us coverage of this unique occasion.

**Live UEFA Champions League**  
ITV, 7.30pm  
The quarter-final stage gets under way tonight, as two of Europe's elite battle it out in a first-leg contest. Chelsea are among the clubs involved at this stage following their 3-1 aggregate victory over Galatasaray in the previous round, and Jose Mourinho will have hopes of winning this trophy for the third time, having previously guided FC Porto and Inter Milan to victory. Despite their domestic troubles, Manchester United have also made it this far, even though they lost the first leg of their last-16 tie 2-0 away to Olympiakos. The Red Devils fought back to win 3-0 in the return match at Old Trafford thanks to a Robin van Persie hat-trick, in what was probably the highlight of David Moyes' United tenure to date. However, both English sides will have their work cut out winning the trophy given the last-eight line-up.

**New Worlds**  
Channel 4, 9pm  
This new four-part drama, written and created by Peter Flannery and Martine Brant, explores a seldom dramatised strain of English history, looking at how the revolutionary spirit of the Civil War didn't necessarily end with the restoration. Set in the 1680s, it follows four young people who aren't necessarily interested in restoring the status quo. The action begins in Hadley, Massachusetts, where Colonel William Goffe, an English fugitive and one of the last surviving men to have signed Charles I's death warrant, finds himself helping to protect the town from a Native American attack. Meanwhile, in Oxfordshire, 21-year-old Beth Fanshawe, daughter of the Countess of Seacourt, is kidnapped by the rebellious Abe Goffe.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Clegg v Farage Debate**  
BBC2, 7pm  
For what seemed like an eternity, we essentially had a two-party system in this country. Before and during the last election, though, the Liberal Democrats rose to a previously unheard-of popularity, and today enjoy more MPs in the House of Commons than ever before. But now a new challenger seems to be emerging, as UKIP, or the UK Independence Party, come to the fore. Could it be that we're moving towards an open, four-party system? Here, the leaders of the two underdogs, go head-to-head in a live debate about the country's place within Europe. Nick Clegg has a good record in such debates, while his counterpart Nigel Farage is something of an unknown quantity.

**THURSDAY**  
**Ade at Sea**  
ITV, 8.30pm  
This week, jovial sailor Adrian Edmondson sets off for the north-west coast of England, and travels the Mersey to Liverpool. "For 200 years, Liverpool has been the north of England's link with the riches of the world," explains Ade, happily covering similar ground to Tony Robinson's similar Channel 4 documentary the other week. In the early 19th century, 40 per cent of the world's trade passed through Liverpool, so little wonder it proves a magnetic draw for documentary-makers. Ade's trek starts at Eastham, where the Manchester Ship Canal connects with the river. Aside from investigating the crucial role of tugboats in the 1800s, he meets three generations of a family who run the tugboat business on today's canal.

**FRIDAY**  
**Martin Clunes & a Lion Called Mudge**  
ITV, 9pm  
To say Martin Clunes is busy is an understatement. When he's not plugging the sixth series of Doc Martin on DVD, he's busy working on a future two-part show for ITV observing man's different relationships with different animals around the world. Then there's this one-off in the Born Free vein. "It's so exciting," enthuses Martin. "For two years I've been trying to make a film about Tony Fitzjohn, who used to live and work with George Adamson. They lived at this place called Kora, where all the famous photos of George with the lions were taken. The Somalis burnt the camp to the ground, but the last couple of years, Tony's rebuilt it, stick by stick."



**New Worlds, Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm**

# Short breaks, holidays and long haul adventures to destinations near and far

...by coach, rail, Eurostar, self-drive and air



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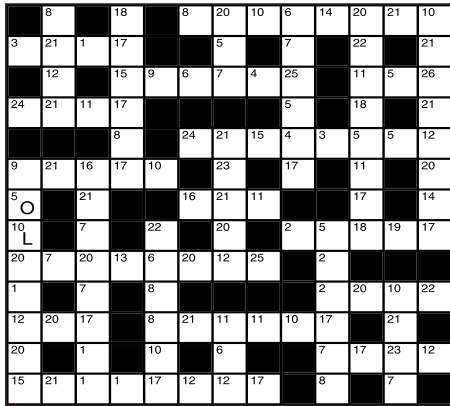
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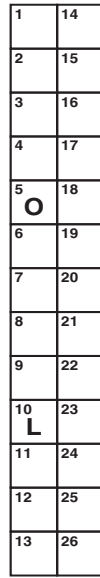
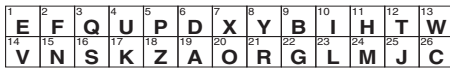


Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

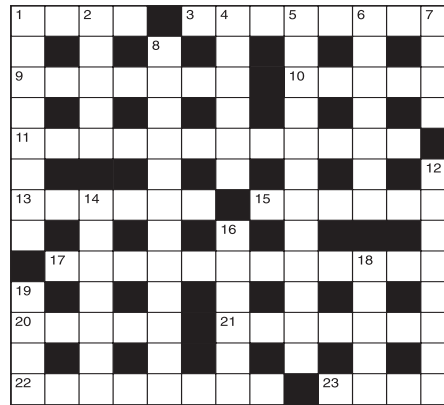
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Yet she may be a hit with the boys (4)
3. Your ills may turn out to be imaginary (8)
9. It is very boring and is due to be altered (7)
10. Aptly fly around it (5)
11. Didn't allow to succeed? (12)
13. Go back to bed? (6)
15. Come as profit, we hear, to a ship's company (6)
17. Useless demonstration of hunger marchers? (5,7)
20. On credit have five shillings (5)
21. The sweet smell of anger? (7)
22. Giving no answers (8)
23. Archaeological accommodation? (4)

Down

1. They produce passes when being charged (8)
2. Apparently these teams are not the tops! (5)
4. It makes no difference to these girls if I join them (6)
5. Would a brunette winning a beauty contest be such a wrong selection? (6,6)
6. In a knockabout we are able to last longer (7)
7. You repeatedly don't finish with this toy (2-2)
8. Monopolise rocks that are important in building (6,6)
12. Type of set meals suitable for vegetarians? (8)
14. Ring me first when there's a disagreement about leisure (4,3)
16. It's a matter of choice (6)
18. Nun that is upset by lack of interest (5)
19. Mark some golfers' cards (4)



Quick Clues:

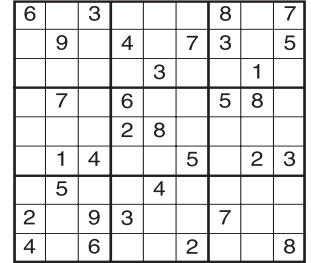
Across

1. Stitched (4)
3. Obtained (8)
9. Suggest (7)
10. Put off (5)
11. Scottish dance (8,4)
13. Pay back (6)
15. Gay (6)
17. Alliances (12)
20. Oblivion (5)
21. Voter (7)
22. Parasol (8)
23. Responsibility (4)

Down

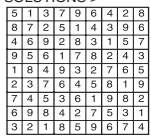
1. Precious stone (8)
2. Incorrect (5)
4. Purifies (6)
5. Undergarments (12)
6. Meditate (7)
7. Challenge (4)
8. Place for voting (7,5)
12. Blames (8)
14. Servant (7)
16. Really (6)
18. Frequently (5)
19. With the addition of (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Arbiter; 7 Pairs; 9 Seems; 10 Chinese; 12 Information; 14 Part-time job; 18 Hundred; 19 Lathe; 21 Sever; 22 Spooner. Down: 1 Armed; 2 Aiman; 3 Hew; 4 Walnut; 5 Press on; 8 Chimney; 11 Confir; 13 Salutes; 15 Tidier; 16 Orator; 17 Thief; 20 Apt. QUICK - Across: 6 Aqueous; 7 Story; 9 Piety; 10 Arrival; 12 Provocation; 14 Incredulity; 18 Clarity; 19 Droll; 21 Addle; 22 Succour. Down: 1 Equip; 2 Better; 3 Due; 4 Strict; 5 Creator; 8 Prickle; 11 Avidity; 13 Include; 15 Rarely; 16 Thrice; 17 Flout; 20 Hut.

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star★extraTRAVEL



NEARLY 25 years on, Miss Saigon has shown its enduring popularity by setting a new box office record ahead of its return to London in May this year.

The musical by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg sees Puccini's Madama Butterfly relocated to Saigon in 1975 and tells the story of a young Vietnamese bar worker called Kim who falls in love with a GI called Chris.

Miss Saigon opens at the Prince Edward Theatre in May, the production's 25th anniversary year. Book your break now choosing from one of the options below.

Coach inclusive breaks

Two days

Selected weekend departures

- Saturday Night** from £164.<sup>95\*\*</sup>
- Return coach travel
  - Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
  - A ticket for an evening performance Miss Saigon\*
  - Services of a coach driver/tour representative
  - Single rooms subject to availability - supplements apply.

Dine and Dance

from £169.<sup>95\*\*</sup>

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- A ticket for a matinee performance of Miss Saigon\*
- After dinner disco in your hotel on Saturday evening
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplements apply.

Rail inclusive breaks

Two or three days

Departs most weekends

- Saturday Night** from £164.<sup>95\*\*</sup>
- Return standard rail travel from your chosen station
  - Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
  - A ticket for an evening performance of Miss Saigon\*
  - Services of a coach driver/tour representative
  - Single rooms subject to availability - supplements apply.

Theatre Showstopper

from £234.<sup>95\*\*</sup>

- Return coach travel
- Two-nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- A top-priced ticket for Miss Saigon\*
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplements apply.

\*Other West End shows are also available to book. Further details can be found online or in our Theatre brochures. \*\*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure for details.

For a brochure or a list of all our current breaks call the Promotions Team on (01902) 319999

(Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to [expressandstar.com/starextratravel](http://expressandstar.com/starextratravel)

Please read brochures/web pages for full information plus terms and conditions  
Coach pick-up points offered are: Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Telford and Shrewsbury

star★extraTRAVEL

South Africa

South Africa is a country five times the size of Britain and it has so much to offer the visitor, including breath-taking wildlife, stunning scenery, a huge sense of history, bustling cities plus first class food and wine.

The holiday includes 13 nights bed and breakfast accommodation in specially selected three and four-star hotels, three evening meals and a variety of stunning excursions.

For most visitors the highlight will be a full day's game drive that brings the chance to see the sweeping savannah and muddy waterholes lined with animals, and to marvel at the incredible 150 mammal and 500 bird species that live in the Kruger National Park, including the 'big five': elephant, lion, rhino, leopard and buffalo. Rooms are reserved at the three-star superior Hippo Hollow Country Estate, located in the midst of lush forest on the banks of the Sabie River. It's open-air terrace overlooks the grounds and river, so watch out for the hippos!

Those interested in history will be intrigued by the visit to Zululand, passing through Swaziland en route, to reach the haunting battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift. In 1879 these two battles, just a day apart, became a defining moment for the British Empire and the specialist Zulu guide will make those desperate encounters come alive.

A well-organised schedule of tours combined with free time in Cape Town, Johannesburg, in Knysna on the coast and at the Kruger National Park means everyone will experience the very heart of South Africa on this 16-day adventure.

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

For a brochure call the Promotions Team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to [expressandstar.com/starextratravel](http://expressandstar.com/starextratravel)

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions



16 days FROM £2,199\*  
Various departure dates

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return scheduled flights
- 13 nights accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis
- Three dinners, two lunches
- Visits to the Johannesburg Apartheid museum, Blyde River canyon, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens
- Full day Kruger safari
- Tours of Zulu battlefields, Featherbed Nature Reserve, Cape Point
- Whale-watching (depends on season)
- Winelands tour including wine tasting
- Services of a Riviera tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

\* varies according to departure date - please go to website for the latest availability and prices



# Three-storey property is immaculately-presented



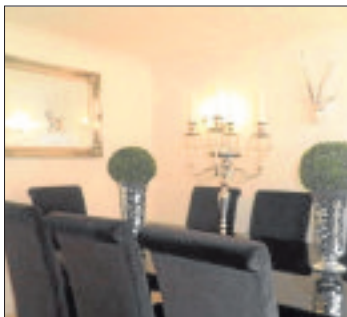
**A five-bedroomed detached house in David Harman Drive, West Bromwich is immaculately presented.**

It is for sale through Worton Kelly at £329,950. It has a porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen/diner, utility, downstairs WC, conservatory, five bedrooms (en suite master), shower room, central heating and double glazing, a detached garage and front and rear gardens.

The lounge has French doors to conservatory. The dining room has marble tiled floor and kitchen/diner has an integrated electric oven with gas hob and cooker hood, integrated dishwasher and fridge. The conservatory has laminate flooring. Upstairs, bedroom one has fitted wardrobes and an arch to two built-in wardrobes and en suite with a bath and a shower cubicle. Bedroom two and three have fitted wardrobes. Fourth and fifth bedrooms on the second floor. Contact 0121 588 5666 or [www.wortonkelly.com](http://www.wortonkelly.com)



## Link-detached is in a desirable area



A four-bedroomed link-detached family house in West Park Road, Smethwick lies in a sought after location. It is for sale through Timothy Daniels at £315,000.

It has three reception rooms, a kitchen/diner, downstairs shower room, conservatory, lean to, a bathroom, separate WC, four bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, off road parking, a front lawned garden and a car port and rear garden with lawn, shrubs and a pond. Among the four bedrooms, number one has laminate flooring and a picture rail, number two has built in wardrobes and a picture rail and number three has floorboards.

Contact Timothy Daniels on 0121 5573989 or visit [www.timothydaniels.co.uk](http://www.timothydaniels.co.uk)



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FGR INVESTMENT, HADEN ARCH COURT,  
HADEN HILL ROAD, HALESOWEN  
GUIDE PRICE £60,000-£70,000



# Imposing detached will appeal to growing family



**AN imposing five-bedroomed detached house for sale in Scott Road, Walsall, is in a secluded position.**

It is for sale through Fraser Wood at £698,000.

With gas central heating and double glazing, it has an L-shaped reception hall, guest cloakroom, extended rear lounge, front dining room, kitchen with fitted breakfast bar, dishwasher and pantry, lobby, WC and stores, plus laundry room. There is a conservatory, first floor balcony closed to form a front study/bedroom. Of the four bedrooms, the master has three fitted wardrobes. Contact Fraser Wood on 01922 627686 [www.fraser-wood.co.uk](http://www.fraser-wood.co.uk)



# Studio apartment was built by David Wilson



**A STUDIO that was built by David Wilson Homes in 2006 in Attingham Drive, Dudley, is for sale through Billingham Taylor at a reduced price of offers over £50,000.**

Immaculately presented it has a carport beneath and pleasant views over playing fields, a front door opening into a kitchen area with intercom system, an electric stainless steel hob, electric cooker and stainless steel back plate.

The kitchen is part open plan to the main living area which has a Juliet balcony and the multi-purpose utility/shower room has a shower enclosure and suite and plumbing for a washing machine.

For further information contact Billingham Taylor on 01384 234900 or visit the [www.billinghamtaylor.co.uk](http://www.billinghamtaylor.co.uk) website.



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**HALESOWEN, Lusbridge close£1,000 pcm - Fees**  
An unfurnished detached house, in a very quiet cul-de-sac location. Briefly featuring 4 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, house bathroom with shower, large lounge, large fitted kitchen, conservatory, downstairs wc, gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden, garage and driveway parking. EPC: E



**BRIERLEY HILL, Golden Cross Way£750 pcm - Fees**  
A furnished detached house close to Brierley Hill Town Centre. Featuring a downstairs w.c., living/dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, master bedroom with en suite shower room, house bathroom. Benefits also include gas central heating, front and rear gardens, garage. Convenient location for Merry Hill. Inspection strongly recommended. EPC: C



**ROWLEY REGIS, Alwin Road£650 pcm - Fees**  
This detached house in a cul-de-sac location. Located close to local shops and transport links. Featuring gas central heating, living room, dining area, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking, unfurnished. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Wroxley House£625 pcm - Fees**  
Luxury living in Hayley Green. This luxury 1st floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



**BRIERLEY HILL, Stockwell Avenue£625 pcm - Fees**  
Early viewing is essential for this 3 bedroom semi-detached home in a popular location with accommodation comprising: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, new fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, off road parking and front and rear gardens. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Holt Road £595 pcm - Fees**  
2 MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! An immaculately presented mid terraced property in a convenient location for shops, buses and motorway links. The property features a homely lounge, dining room, luxury refitted shower room, 2 double bedrooms, and 2 single loft rooms, gas central heating, double glazing, small rear courtyard garden, on road parking. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Middlefield Gardens£595 pcm - Fees**  
First floor apartment in Hurst Green. Set within well maintained gardens, this apartment features a large lounge, 2 double and 1 single bedroom, fitted kitchen with appliances, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, parking area and communal gardens. Available now. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Holt Road £575 pcm - Fees**  
A well presented mid terrace property close to local shops. This house features 3 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with white goods, bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front & rear gardens, garage with driveway. Available 1/4/13. EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Cradley Road£550 pcm - Fees**  
A semi detached house within walking distance to Cradley Heath Town Centre and rail links to Birmingham. This lovely house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Benefits include gas central heating, double glazing, driveway, enclosed front garden. Available 01/05/14. EPC: E



**NETHERTON, Purlin Wharf£550 pcm - Fees**  
A very presentable, unfurnished 1st floor apartment on this popular development, over looking the canal. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with fridge freezer, master bedroom with en-suite, family bathroom with hair wash shower only, double glazing, electric heating, 1 allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Malt Mill Lane£530 pcm - Fees**  
A superb fully re-furnished traditional terraced house. Within easy reach of Blackheath and a short drive from Halesowen and the M5. This home features 2 large reception rooms (modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing. A must see property! EPC: C



**CRADLEY HEATH, Luanne Close£525 pcm - Fees**  
Situated in a popular residential area. This ground floor apartment, which overlooks the canal and has its own balcony, features 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, access to balcony from the master bedroom, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Well worth a viewing. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Beaumont Road£525 pcm - Fees**  
2 MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! Ideally located in Blackheath for local amenities, train station and the M5. This large 2 double bedroom end terrace house features 2 reception rooms with 1 reception having slate flooring and a working wood burner, fitted kitchen, utility room with washing machine, 2 double bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, courtyard rear garden, on road parking and off road parking available for 1 car plus garage (accessed from Clifton Road). EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Peckingham Street£525 pcm - Fees**  
Wonderfully refurbished with original features maintained and fantastic convenience centre of town. Ring us now to view this lovely light, airy apartment, modern kitchen with new appliances and useful utility room. With 2 double bedrooms, this is a must see exceptional apartment. EPC: B



**CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£475 pcm - Fees**  
An unfurnished 3rd floor apartment on a popular development, close to Old Hill High Street and the local Train Station. The property features: living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include electric storage heating, allocated parking space. EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Mill Road£475 pcm - Fees**  
Located on this very popular Timberlee Estate and ideally situated for local schools and transport links. Comprising 1 double and 2 single bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen, house bathroom with shower, tiered rear garden. On road parking. EPC: D



**OLDBURY, Arden Grove £475 pcm - Fees**  
1st floor modern apartment occupying the whole of the top floor. Within walking distance of Langley High St, train/bus links and J2 of the M5. This immaculate property features a spacious lounge, recently refitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, 1 double bedroom. Private garden and driveway parking. EPC: G



**BRIERLEY HILL, Norwood Road£450 pcm - Fees**  
An unfurnished and terraced house, close to local shops and not far from Merry Hill Shopping Centre. This large house features a lovely living room, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden, on road parking. EPC: E



**LYE, High Street £400 pcm - Fees**  
Fully refurbished in the centre of Lye. This large and spacious 1st floor apartment has a lovely lounge with a feature bay window, 2 good size bedrooms, new bathroom suite but no shower, modern and contemporary kitchen with oven and hob, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. EPC: F



**HALESOWEN, Apperley Way£395 pcm - Fees**  
Available is this unfurnished 1st floor apartment which is well presented throughout, within walking distance to Cradley Heath train station, featuring a modern fitted kitchen, light and airy lounge, bathroom with shower, 1 bedroom with built in wardrobes, communal drying area. EPC: C



**CRADLEY HEATH, Trinity Street£375 pcm - Fees**  
House share in a large Victorian semi-detached home. Large furnished double bedroom available in this lovely period house. Kitchen, bathroom and large lounge are all shared facilities. Wi-Fi broadband. Rent to include all bills. 2 people sharing will be £100 pcm extra. EPC: E



# Corner house is located in a desirable area of city



**OCCUPYING** a choice corner position, this modern detached residence in Yew Tree Lane, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, has excellent family accommodation with five double bedrooms.

It is for sale through Nick Tart at £465,000. Tastefully and attractively appointed, this spacious property comprises an entrance hall, cloakroom, living room with feature fireplace and wood-effect flooring, a sitting/dining room, breakfast kitchen with integrated appliances, wood-effect units, contrasting working surfaces, a breakfast bar and ceramic floor tiling plus splash back tiling, a utility, five spacious double bedrooms with master en suite and separate bathroom.

For further information contact Nick Tart on 01902 755585 or visit [www.nicktart.com](http://www.nicktart.com) website.



## Three-bed detached is ideal family home

A three-bedroomed detached house in The Straits, Gornal is for sale through Bakers Estate Agents at £159,950.

It has an entrance porch with a ceramic tiled floor, reception hall with a ceramic tiled floor, lounge with a bay window and feature stone fire surround, a dining room with a polished wood fire surround with a marble inset and hearth, conservatory with doors to the garden, kitchen with wall and floor tiling and built-in pantry, a lobby and cloakroom and stores (all with floor tiling), a landing, three bedrooms, a bathroom, garage and a rear garden.

For further information contact Bakers Estate Agents on 01384 252527 or visit the website [www.bakersproperty.co.uk](http://www.bakersproperty.co.uk)



## YOUR MOVE

<b>HALESOWEN</b> £249,950  <b>NEWBURY CLOSE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modern Detached Property EPC Rating C</li> <li>Lounge Dining Room Kitchen/Breakfast Room Conservatory Cloaks W/c</li> <li>Four Bedrooms Master Ensuite Family Bathroom</li> <li>Integral Garage Driveway Front and Rear Gardens</li> <li>Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain</li> </ul>	<b>HALESOWEN</b> £210,000  <b>COCKSHED LANE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detached Property EPC Rating D</li> <li>Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen</li> <li>Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c</li> <li>Integral Garage Driveway Front and Rear Gardens</li> <li>Internal Viewing Recommended</li> </ul>	<b>QUINTON</b> £170,000  <b>WHITE ROAD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E</li> <li>Lounge Open Plan Kitchen Dining Room</li> <li>Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c</li> <li>Three Well Proportioned Bedrooms Bathroom W/c</li> <li>Driveway To The Front Large Garden To The Rear</li> <li>Internal Viewing Highly Recommended</li> </ul>	<b>HALESOWEN</b> Offers Over £160,000  <b>GREENHILL ROAD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E</li> <li>Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Utility Area</li> <li>Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c</li> <li>Drive To The Front Large Garden To The Rear</li> <li>Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain</li> </ul>	<b>QUINTON</b> £159,950  <b>CHICHESTER DRIVE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modern Semi Detached Property EPC Rating C</li> <li>Lounge/Dining Room Fitted Kitchen</li> <li>Three Bedrooms Shower Room Separate W/c</li> <li>Benefiting From A Gas Fired Central Heating System and Double Glazing</li> <li>Garage Driveway Rear Garden</li> </ul>	<b>OLDBURY</b> £135,000  <b>MEHDI ROAD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modern Mid Town House EPC Rating C</li> <li>Lounge/Dining Room Fitted Kitchen Cloakroom W/c</li> <li>Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c</li> <li>Rear Garden Off Road Parking and Garage En-bloc</li> <li>No Upward Chain Viewing Highly Recommended</li> </ul>
<b>HALESOWEN</b> £129,995  <b>FRANKLEY AVENUE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi Detached Property EPC Rating C</li> <li>Two Reception Rooms Kitchen</li> <li>Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c</li> <li>Off Road Parking Front and Rear Gardens</li> <li>Set Back From Main Road No Upward Chain</li> </ul>	<b>BARTLEY GREEN</b> £125,000  <b>AMBLESIDE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D</li> <li>Lounge Kitchen Dining Room</li> <li>Three Bedrooms Family Bathroom W/c</li> <li>Benefits From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing</li> <li>Driveway Garden To The Rear Garage En-bloc</li> </ul>	<b>BARTLEY GREEN</b> £117,500  <b>POMEROY ROAD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well Presented Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C</li> <li>Spacious Lounge Fitted Kitchen Diner</li> <li>Three Well Proportioned Bedrooms Bathroom W/c</li> <li>Front and Rear Gardens Garage En-bloc</li> <li>Internal Viewing Highly Recommended</li> </ul>	<b>BARTLEY GREEN</b> £110,000  <b>FIELD LANE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C</li> <li>Through Lounge Kitchen Utility Area</li> <li>Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c</li> <li>Block Paved Frontage Garden To The Rear</li> <li>Benefiting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing</li> </ul>	<b>QUINTON</b> £104,950  <b>DAVENTRY GROVE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well Presented First Floor Apartment EPC Rating D</li> <li>Through Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen</li> <li>Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c</li> <li>Gas Fired Central Heating System</li> <li>Internal Viewing Recommended</li> </ul>	<b>QUINTON</b> Offers Over £100,000  <b>DAVENTRY GROVE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immaculate First Floor Apartment EPC Rating C</li> <li>Through Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen</li> <li>Two Bedrooms Shower Room W/c</li> <li>Property Recently Re-furnished</li> <li>Internal Viewing Highly Recommended No Upward Chain</li> </ul>
<b>OLDBURY</b> £99,950  <b>SALOP ROAD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating</li> <li>Lounge Kitchen Dining Room</li> <li>Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c</li> <li>Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing</li> <li>Front and Rear Gardens No Upward Chain</li> </ul>	<b>BARTLEY GREEN</b> Offers Over £95,000  <b>ATHOL CLOSE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three Bedroom Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D</li> <li>Lounge Good Sized Kitchen-Diner</li> <li>Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c</li> <li>Gardens To The Front and Rear</li> <li>Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain</li> </ul>	<b>ROWLEY REGIS</b> £94,950  <b>UNION STREET</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delightful Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D</li> <li>Lounge Spacious Kitchen</li> <li>Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c</li> <li>Garden To The Rear Of The Property</li> <li>Internal Viewing Highly Recommended</li> </ul>	<b>BARTLEY GREEN</b> Offers Over £90,000  <b>BICKINGTON ROAD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End Terrace Property EPC Rating</li> <li>Through Lounge Kitchen Utility Cloaks W/c</li> <li>Two Double Bedrooms Shower Room</li> <li>Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing</li> <li>Front and Rear Gardens</li> </ul>	<b>QUINTON</b> £89,950  <b>DAVENTRY GROVE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spacious Second Floor Apartment Awaiting EPC</li> <li>Through Lounge Dining Room Kitchen</li> <li>Two Bedrooms Bathroom Separate W/c</li> <li>Communal Gardens</li> <li>Benefits From No Upward Chain</li> </ul>	<b>OLDBURY</b> £80,000  <b>PERRY COURT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ground Floor Retirement Apartment EPC Rating</li> <li>Lounge Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c</li> <li>Communal Gardens Non Allocated Parking Area</li> <li>Only Available To Over 55's</li> <li>Benefits From Having No Upward Chain</li> </ul>



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A detached bungalow comprising lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and family bathroom. Halesowen.

The Lenches, Shelsley Avenue



EPC C

£240,000

Modern detached house with accommodation comprising of lounge, dining room, kitchen, WC, six bedrooms, garage and rear garden. Halesowen.

Apperley Way, Halesowen



EPC D

£170,000

A detached house briefly comprising lounge, kitchen breakfast room, downstairs WC, three bedrooms and family bathroom. Halesowen

Mace Street, Cradley Heath



Awaiting EPC

£120,000

This four bedroom terraced house comprises lounge, two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom and rear garden. Halesowen

Best Street, Cradley Heath



EPC E

£120,000

A four bedroom semi detached house comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, WC, drive/carport, front and rear gardens. Halesowen

Green Lane, Halesowen



EPC D

£75,000

This traditional mid terraced property comprises lounge, three bedrooms and rear garden. Halesowen.

Portland Drive, Tividale



Awaiting EPC

Offers Over £110,000

Terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, conservatory, downstairs WC and bathroom.

Kirkham Gardens, Pensnett



Awaiting EPC

Offers Over £100,000

End terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, conservatory, bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

City Road, Tividale



EPC E

Offers Over £100,000

Semi detached two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, front and rear gardens and driveway.

Tividale Street, Tipton



Awaiting EPC

Offers Over £100,000

Terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden and allocated parking.

Kiers Bridge Close, Tipton



EPC D

Offers Over £90,000

Mid terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, rear garden and allocated parking.

Swan Street, Brierley Hill



EPC E

£90,000

Semi detached two bedroom property comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom with separate WC, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage.

Park Road, Netherton



Awaiting EPC

£70,000

A two bedroom terraced property comprising two reception rooms, downstairs bathroom and kitchen. Ideal opportunity for first time buyer.

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# Honda Tourer in good shape

By Graham Breeze

With more and more companies entering the compact estate market, Honda just could not afford to be left behind, so the Civic Tourer was a 'must' for the Japanese brand.

The British-built Tourer brings a brand of distinctive styling and class-leading utility, while offering an impressive balance between fuel economy and performance.

The Tourer has the same wheelbase as the hatch but is 235mm longer in rear overhang which you would expect to have a detrimental effect on design.

But it actually improves the appearance and gives the car a completely distinctive look, which is important in an age of look-alikes.

Honda was determined the wedge-like profile would not come at the expense of space and surprisingly has managed to create a class-leading 624 litres of boot space, including 117 litres beneath the false floor.

The space has been created by clever positioning of the fuel tank underneath the front seats, allowing the rear seats to be folded flat to reveal 1,668 litres of space.

The Civic Tourer is available with the choice of two engines; the 1.8 i-TEC petrol and the new Earth Dreams Technology 1.6 i-DETEC diesel, and four generously equipped trim levels.

Both engines come with a six-speed manual gearbox, while the petrol car buyers can gear a four-speed torque converter.

The diesel costs up to £1,210 more than

the manual petrol, but is over 60 per cent more fuel efficient, 72.4-74.3mpg, against 43.5-45.6mpg, and also emits far less CO2, 99-103g/km against 146-149 g/km.

The entry level S grade includes features such as Bluetooth hands-free telephone, DAB radio, USB connectivity and 16in alloy wheels.

In addition the SE Plus, the next level up, has rear parking sensors and 17in alloys, whilst SR customers will benefit from the new world-first rear Adaptive Damper System (ADS), front heated seats, HDD navigation and privacy glass.

Those who opt for the top EX grade will receive headlight washer, smart entry and start capability, sunglasses holder, interior blue ambient lighting and Bi-HID headlights with auto levelling.

## Comfortable

Up front is a comfortable place to be with fully-adjustable seats and steering column and the fascia is easily recognised as Honda's with the usual combination of high quality plastics and easy-to-remember switch positions.

Every inch of space is cleverly utilised, meaning front and rear-seat passenger can be comfortably accommodated, but rising glass lines mean rear vision is not the best in sector.

There's no excuse for questioning the handling of this model because Honda has developed a world-first rear Adaptive Damper System, which automatically adjusts the rear suspension damping force, enhancing stability and comfort.

Another first is the option to add Honda's new suite of safety technologies to a C-segment car.

Based on the philosophy of 'safety for



.....  
**'Honda was determined the wedge-like profile would not come at the expense of space'**  
.....

everyone', it uses a combination of cameras, short-range lidar and radar to deliver safety in all conditions.

The new Driver Assistance Safety Pack is available as a factory-fit option from SE models upwards for £780, with City-Brake Active System, forward collision warning, high beam support system, lane departure warning, traffic sign recognition system, and blind spot information.

Safety Pack Two is only available on EX

Plus models and for an additional £2,500 benefits from all the features in Safety Pack One as well as automatic cruise control and collision mitigation braking, in place of the City Brake Active System.

A comfortable ride and superb handling coupled with the versatile load space and a stunning diesel engine mean Honda will be competitive, but the questions will revolve around pricing, which with an entry level of £20,265, may put some buyers off.



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<b>Citroen:</b> 62 C3 Picasso 1.6 Exc Auto Beige 10k 60 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI Airdream Blue 27k 10 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI Exc Blue 27k 60 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI Exclusive Blue 20k 61 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Grey 14k 09 C4 G Piccas 1.6 HDI VTR EGS Gold 19k 59 C4 G Piccas 1.6 HDI VTR+ EGS Silver 12k 07 C4 G Piccas 1.6 VTR+ HDI EGS Gold 60k 11 C4 G Piccas 2.0 HDI Exc EGS Grey 25k 57 C4 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Brown 45k 57 C4 Picasso 1.8 VTR+ Grey 47k 07 C6 2.7 HDI Lignage Auto Silver 80k	<b>Retail</b> £10,995 £8,295 £8,295 £8,995 £8,995 £8,995 £9,995 £5,995 £12,995 £6,495 £5,495 £6,495	<b>Vauxhall</b> 56 Astra 1.4 SXI 3dr Coupe Blue 56k 05 Astra 1.7 CDTi Life Grey 68k 60 Astra 2.0 CDTi SRI Auto Grey 16k 58 Corsa 1.4 Design Auto Silver 48k 62 Meriva 1.4 Active Turbo Black 60 Meriva 1.4 SE Turbo 138 Grey 26k 60 Meriva 1.7 CDTi SE Auto Blue 26k 11 Meriva 1.7 CDTi SE Auto Brown 30k	<b>Retail</b> £4,795 £3,695 £9,995 £5,295 £9,795 £7,995 £7,795 £7,995
<b>Ford</b> 05 C-Max 1.6 TDCI Zetec Silver 57k 05 Focus 1.6 LX Blue 79k 09 Focus 1.6 Style Estate Grey 29k 09 Fusion 1.4 TDCI Zetec Blue 48k	<b>Retail</b> £3,795 £3,495 £6,995 £5,995	<b>Available to Order</b> 60 Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI Available to Order From 60 Citroen C4 G Piccas 1.6 HDI Available to Order From 60 Ford Fiesta 1.6 Zetec 5dr Available to Order From 11 Ford Focus 1.6 Available to Order From 60 Nissan Note Man/Auto Available to Order From 11 Nissan Qashqai Diesel Available to Order From 11 Vauxhall Astra Exclusiv Man/Auto Available to Order From 11 Vauxhall Corsa Man/Auto Available to Order From 11 Vauxhall Zafira Exclusiv Available to Order From	<b>Retail</b> £8,495 £9,995 £8,495 £8,995 £7,695 £12,495 £8,295 £7,995 £8,995
<b>Nissan</b> 60 Cube 1.6 Kaizen Silver 31k 61 Juke 1.6 DIG-T Tekna White 12k 60 Note 1.5 DCI N-Tec Red 31k 60 Note 1.5 DCI Tekna Silver 29k 10 Note 1.6 N-Tec Auto Black 19k 60 Qashqai 1.6 Acenta Black 20k	<b>Retail</b> £6,995 £13,495 £7,995 £8,295 £7,495 £11,295	<b>Reduced to Clear!</b> 08 BMW 525i SE Auto 4dr Green 77k 05 Ford C-Max 1.6 Zetec Silver 62k 58 Ford Fusion 1.6 Zetec Clim Auto Red 21k 60 Kia Venga 2.1.6 Auto Silver 11k 02 Mini One 1.6 Yellow 78k 02 Peugeot 206 1.1 Style 3dr Black 80k 60 Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv Turbo 118 Silver 24K	<b>Retail Now</b> £9,295 £3,695 £4,995 £8,495 £3,695 £1,995 £7,495
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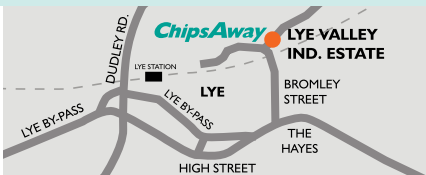
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\*Service Club servicing & repairs discounts: 15% for vehicles 2-3 years, 25% for vehicles 3 years plus. Offers apply to MasterFit service and repair work on your registered Vauxhall at participating Retailers only. Service Club is only available to customers of UK registered Vauxhall vehicles. Discount does not apply to tyres and oil. Half-price MOT test (UK mainland only - excluding Northern Ireland). Free pre-MOT test inspection for customers in Northern Ireland only. Members are entitled to discount on any MasterFit labour and only genuine Vauxhall parts. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer. \*Voucher available until 31/03/2014. Vauxhall reserve the right to amend or remove the offer at their discretion.



# Local Specialists



## Aerials

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Halesowen 0121 445 1382

**DIGITAL AERIAL Fitted from £49**

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**(SPECIAL OFFER) Aerial into 2 rooms £80**  
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Fully Insured  
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**DJB Electrical Contractors Ltd**

We are NIC EIC approved electrical company and also TRUST MARK and PART P registered.

**All our electricians are CRB checked.**  
**24 hour 7 days a week call outs**

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**M: 0790 090 3000**  
**E: Darren@djbelectricalcontractors.co.uk**

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- Family
- Leisure Time
- Home & Services
- Pets & Animals
- Business & Farming
- Property
- Jobs
- Motoring
- Local Information
- Personals

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07743 726146. 01902 683153.

1

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Excellent condition.  
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Can deliver free if local.  
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Stunning caravan.  
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5 berth, 2 ring caravan. 2006.  
Complete with porch awning.  
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3

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### furniture

### SPRING SALE

**Furniture Factory Outlet**  
Worcester extra value divan single was £399 now  
£49.50, 02 beds £399.50, Clio Sofa Bed, red cloth in  
fabric or faux leather was £399 now £119, ortho  
mattress from £69, memory foam mattress £89, metal  
fashion beds frames £39, ottoman and leather  
leather beds, over 1000 mattresses, wing chairs  
£119, recliner chairs £199, massage/power  
recliners from £299, complete suites from £299.  
Save up to 50% on leather corner units-12 piece  
£249, 3 seater Westford fabric sofas-Clearance  
£149, Chairs £49, Recliners leather £199.  
Mattresses from £29, Bunk bed frames £39

**B&Q**, Unit 9, Coneygre Rd, Burnt Tree, off  
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200m past T11 Carvery behind The Warehouse. 7 days, Sun 10-4  
**0121 557 6885**

**GENUINE LEATHER** 3 plus 2 seater  
sofas, brown, very good condition,  
£250.  
01902 338505 or 07852 242409.

**THREE SEATER** 2 seater and 1  
chair, all reclining, chocolate suede  
fabric, 12 months old, cost £1,400,  
sell £500 ono. 01922 497190.

### in your garden

**Top Soil,  
Building Sand  
Paving/Concrete Sand  
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Delivered Bagged or Loose**  
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### items for sale

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tisement today? We would respect-  
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their responsibility to inform the  
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curacies on the first day of publica-  
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**CAR BOOT ITEMS**, ornaments, wall  
plates, curtains etc., £80 lot o.n.o.  
0121 520 7749.

**CORRUGATED Roofing Sheets**  
Also tile effect/box profile/curved  
and z purlins. Call Hornsey Steels  
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With copper canopy, stone sur-  
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length 183cm, width 43cm with  
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Photos available.

Offers over £50.

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**ANYTHING OLD &  
INTERESTING**  
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

**READERS ARE ADVISED** to care-  
fully consider all of their options  
before agreeing to the sale of any of  
their items.

**ANTIQUES COLLECTABLE** mem-  
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07930 949337. 01384 484309.

**RECORDS WANTED**  
50's, 60's, 70's, Rock, Punk,  
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Collections bought.  
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Top prices paid.  
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**WANTED** Diecast model cars,  
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considered. 07348 169754.

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### service

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**£85**  
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Removals, clearances. Items large  
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Flat roofs, tiling,  
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## 4 Pets & Animals

### equestrian corner

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Passport information.

### guns & dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that  
they meet all necessary legal  
requirements for owning and  
using guns.

### pets corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when  
purchasing a puppy there are  
some simple guidelines you can  
follow to ensure that you are not  
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Farmer:  
1. Try to ensure you visit the  
puppy whilst it is still with it's  
Mother.  
2. Do not arrange to collect a  
puppy from any other location  
than that of the breeder.  
3. Ensure that you are given any  
KC documentation, if pedigree.  
Whilst Midlands News  
Association publications take  
great care to avoid publication  
of advertisements from Puppy  
Farmers we cannot accept any  
liability should readers  
purchase from this kind of  
establishment.

**ADORABLE** Yorkies, eight weeks  
old, males £150, female £170.  
Parents are pets. 07920 290087.

**ALASKAN MALAMUTE** puppies,  
like Huskies, KC reg, ready now,  
£495 each. 07973 619913.

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Little George is a Shizu cross  
Jack russell aged 4 years, he is  
shy and timid until he knows you  
then wants to get on your lap.  
Pippin is a 5 month old shaggy  
Jack Russell cross.

Both these dogs are lovely,  
owner is too poorly to care  
for them, if necessary will  
separate.

For more information  
Telephone 01384 252158

### FOREST DOG RESCUE

Rehoming -  
**Shadow** - Rottie, 5yrs, male.  
**Bruce** - Mastiff X, 2yrs, male.  
**Sox** - Staffie, 3yrs, female.  
**Affie** - X bred, 4yrs, male.  
**Stan** - Husky X, 2yrs, male.  
**Foxy** - Husky X, 9mths, male.  
**Bella** - 2yrs, female. **Snowy** -  
Staffie, 2yrs, female. **Pete** -  
Staffie, 2yrs, male. **Rex** -  
Boxer X Staffie, 1yr, male.  
01299 269181 or 07564  
262371 www.forest-dog-  
rescue.org.uk

**FREE** to good home, yorkshire  
terrier, 9 years old, good compan-  
ion. 07530 97362.

**PURE WHITE** cats x2 (Brothers), 1  
yrs old, nice natured, stay together  
if possible, not on main road, good  
home only. Free. 07838 966672.

**ROLLER CANARIES**, £10 each.  
Show cages, training cages plus all  
equipment, reasonable offers.  
Telephone 07742 074190.

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Is a Collie cross Mongrel?,  
Despite being neglected and  
not treated well he is still a  
happy Friendly dog.  
Although he 10+ he likes his  
walks and likes to play with his  
toys.

We would like a forever home  
for this little chap and we would  
help with any further vets bills.  
Can you give this lovely boy a  
home??

For more information  
01746 780434.

**UMBRELLA COCKATOO** two years  
old, hand reared, with cage.  
£650.  
07977 579964.

**WANTED.** Aviary birds for large  
private aviary. Also pigeons and  
poultry for beginner and parrot for  
house pet. 07970 485491.

### vets

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## 5 Business & Farming

### business opportunities

**READERS** are recommended to  
take appropriate professional  
advice before entering any obli-  
gations.

## 6 Property

### flats for sale

**UPPER FLOOR TWO BED  
FLAT**  
Kiddeminstor, lounge, kitchen,  
shower room, double glazing,  
electric central heating, off road  
parking.  
£70,000.  
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to charge a fee simply for the regis-  
tration of your requirements and/or  
supplying particulars of premises to  
let.

**LODGER REQUIRED** Dudley area.  
Large nice decorated room.  
Parking. £50pw. 07851 608515.

**SELF CONTAINED** 1-bed flat Dun-  
stall, Wolverhampton.  
07885 547013.

**THREE BED** House, CH, Wednes-  
field. Excellent condition, DSS con-  
sidered. Dep reqd. 01902 822919.

**THREE BED** Semi, Colleygate,  
Halesowen, DG, CH, garage, avail-  
able now, no DSS. 07879 761743.

**TWO BED** large furnished flat Brier-  
ley Hill, DYS, No D.S.S. £90pw Tel:  
07930 508309.

**TWO BED** house Bilston, recently  
decorated, unfurnished, CH, no  
pets / smokers / DSS. Refs /  
deposit. £540pcm. 07779 064749.

**TWO BED** House W-ton Street,  
Darlaston, freshly decorated, new  
carpets. £450pcm, available im-  
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**TWO BED FLAT:** Partly furnished,  
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**UPPER GORNAL** 1 bed flat, GCH,  
clean, nicely decorated, £375pcm,  
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**UPPER GORNAL** Dudley, 3  
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considered. Call 01902 676540.

**WOLVERHAMPTON** city centre  
ground floor flat, 2 bed, lounge,  
CH, £650 pcm. 07525 070769.

### overseas property

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek  
independent legal advice before  
entering into any financial commit-  
ments.

### houses for sale



NEAR TENBY (10 MILES)  
WALES

Timber frame Bungalow on  
retirement park, remodelled to  
high standard, DG, CH.

£90,000.

07816 929546

01834 831830.

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PERMANENT RESIDENTIAL  
At New Quay West, Wales.  
An exceptional 2 bedroom, 2  
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from 7th blocks - Full 3yrs

01902 744726 / 07831 646601

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**ELECTRICIAN'S MATE** JOB  
19yr male with transport, clean  
licence, looking for Electrician's  
Mate job, C&G lv 2 Test and  
Inspection, lv3 Electro Techni-  
cal, 8 months experience in  
electrical and general building.  
07505 403838.

**RETIRED TIME SERVED  
CARPENTER / JOINER**  
Requires casual / part time  
work. Own van / tools.  
Has been involved in general  
maintenance for last 12 years.  
CRB cleared.  
01384 375672. 07527 360303.



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**ALDERDALE FIXING** Systems Limited require a fabricator welder experienced in the production of structural steel components. The person appointed will be responsible for the day to day supervision of the fabricator department.

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## 8 Motoring

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**CITROEN X1 VT** 09 reg, red, 17,000 miles, good condition. MOT May, tax July, £3,500. 07522 960043.

**CITROEN C3**, 2009, 11,700 miles, tax and MOT, fsh, immaculate condition, e/w, pas, CD player, 2 lady owners, £3,585 ono. 07963 241999.

**CITROEN C3 DESIRE SE 1.1**, 2006, 46,812 miles, wicked red, e/w, very good condition, alarm, tax/MOT. One lady owner. £2,375 ono. 01384 240656.

**FIAT DOBLO 1.4 ACTIVE** 2009, FSH, PAS, MOT, 24,000 miles, stereo, rear parking sensors. £3,600 ono. 07766 587828.

**FIAT PUNTO** Active 1200cc, 57 reg, 52k, FSH, 12 months MOT, taxed, e/w, cd, £2450 ono. Wolverhampton. 07932 929418.

**KIA PICANTO SPICE**, 2010, (60), Hatchback, 5 speed, manual, petrol, 999cc, 15,000 miles, 1 previous owner. FSH, tax/MOT. Immaculate condition. £4,920. o.n.o. Telephone 07513 004802.

**MERCEDES BENZ C180** classic, black, AMG alloy wheels, private number plate included, excellent condition, £1,500. 07528 316589.

**NISSAN MICRA** Acenta, Auto with air con, 1.2, 3 door, 30,860 mileage, (2008) £3,000. Telephone 01952 245007.

**NISSAN NOTE** VISIA, 09, 1.4, Taxed, full MOT, 32,000 miles. £4,500. o.n.o. Excellent condition. Stafford 07785 663779.

**PEUGEOT 206 BLACK 1.4 SPECIAL EDITION**, 55 reg, 3-dr, alloys, 40,000 miles, MOT and tax Aug. £2,495 ono. 07739 405963.

**PEUGEOT 407 SW** 1600 diesel, Grey, 07 reg, 46,446 miles, 2 owners, MOT July 2014. Immaculate condition. £3,800 ono. 07966 209916.

**RENAULT MEGAN DYNAMIQUE** 4 door saloon, 1.6, FSH, grey, 58 plate, with sun roof, 57,000 miles, excellent condition, £2,500. 07929 511572. Kingswinford.

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 EXCITE**, 62 reg, 7,900 miles, 5 months tax, 3 door, excellent condition, £6,950 ono. 07505 147390.

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI** 3 mths tax, 3 mths MOT, 71k, met, 5-dr, air-con, towbar, £3,295. 01384 351878 / 07973 859951.

**VAUXHALL CORSA SXI** 2004, 10 months Tax, 2 months MOT, CD Radio, E/W, E/M, C/L. Ideal first car. £1,295 ono. 07834 967071. Wolverhampton.

**VAUXHALL MERIVA** 5dr hatchback, 59K, 2003, tax and MOT 6 months, good condition, £1,600 ono. 07860 879058.

**VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN**, 07, 1.6, Petrol, 59,000 miles, full MOT, 5 months, good condition £1,650 ono. 01384 351878 / 07973 859951.

**VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 TDT SRI**, 56 plate, 48,000 miles, FSH, £3,500. 01889 578592.

## MUST BE SEEN

## VOLVO C30 R DESIGN

White, 09 plate, 1.8 petrol, 12 months MOT, FSH, bluetooth, alloys, full leather, electric windows, cruise control, sun roof, climate control, £7,995 ono.

## MUST BE SEEN

**VW POLO 1.4 Match** 80, 2008, hatch, 3dr, auto, petrol, silver, 53k miles, 2 owners, full MOT, tax end of June, £4,800 ono. 07503 557530.

## cars under £1500

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED** that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**BMW 320 SE** auto, 2001, petrol, tax, MOT, 135k, all leather, good condition, £850. 01902 344177.

**CITROEN SYNERGY 7 SEATER DIESEL** 1995, new cambelt, 5 mths tax, 11 mths MOT, great runner good condition. £475 ono. 07740 958652.

**FORD KA**, black, 2001, 12 months MOT, pas, a/c, e/w. Cheap tax. Great runner. £675 ono. 07754 557861.

**FORD FIESTA FINESSE**, 1998, 96,000 miles, silver, air bag, MOT, sunroof, 2 months tax, £250 ono. 01384 271195.

**FORD KA 1.3 53 plate**, MOT Nov, tax Oct, 2 lady owners from new, genuine 20,000 mileage, nice clean car. £1,400 ono. 0121 557 4811.

**FORD PUMA**, X reg, silver, fsh, excellent condition, MOT, tax, 1995, new tyres, £750. 01902 562240 / 07989 539449 (Wton).

**MG TF**, 2002, 65,000 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, alarm, pas, alloys, CD, leather interior. £825 ono. 07766 478921.

**NISSAN MICRA** 998 cc, MoT'd, taxed, 1997, 90 k, purple, 3 door, very economical, P reg, £450. 07964 350386.

**RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 RC**, 1999, 73,000 miles, MOT Dec, no tax, £550 ono. 07968 308750 or 0121 421 3967.

**ROVER 623GSI**, auto, 1997, met grey, 31k miles, 1 owner, fsh, tax and MOT, a/c, c/c, pas, sunroof, alloys, leather, £795. 01902 592595.

**ROVER 75 CLUB AUTO SE**, red, taxed and MOT'd, 2 litre petrol, 2001, £950 ono. 01384 638966 or 07752 461043.

**SMART CAR**, Left hand Drive, 2001-, MOT till Aug. Tax till June. 52,000 miles. Very good condition. Private plate with alloy. £1,100. MoT. Telephone 07871 065161.

**TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 T reg**, 100k, 12 months MoT, clean and tidy, very reliable, ideal 1st car £995. 01902 721187.

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**YOUNG** early 40's female



## Hales fail to take chances and lose

**Broadstreet 36  
Old Halesonians 8**

IT'S A cliché, but this was a game of two halves. A true reflection of the differences between the sides were chances missed by the visitors and those taken by the home side.

Hales were prepared to upset the league leaders but after 20 minutes of equal pressure, Broadstreet drove towards the Hales line. Hales were penalised twice which gave the home side possession. A quickly-worked penalty led to an unconverted forwards' try.

Hales fought back with some excellent passages of play as Tom Jordan and Rich Sawyer controlled the forward pressure. Street were forced to concede a penalty, converted by Chris Hooper 5-3.

Scrum half Nathan Jones led from the front, sniping through the defence. Two opportunities to score by Carl Robinson and Loz Breese were foiled close to the try line.

On 37 minutes, the visitors again worked the phases with flanker Jordan driving for a great try giving Hales a lead of 5-8 at half time.

Despite a strong start to the second half Hales failed to add to their score and a rampant Street then ran in five tries.

# Crucial finale ahead in survival battle



Paul Harrold in action Picture – Jonathan Hipkiss

## OHC 1sts 3 Worcester 1

OLD Halesonians Hockey Club's got their second win in as many weeks, as they beat third-placed Worcester in their penultimate game of the season.

Seventh-placed Hales, will now battle it out with eighth-placed Burton this Saturday in the season's finale, and with a league restructure on the cards it could be winner takes all as teams continue to fight for their survival by finishing as high up the table as possible.

Old Hales' persistence paid off and it was defender Ben Hughes who created the

## Hockey

opener, when Hales were awarded a penalty stroke. Hughes received the ball wide in the 'D', and after his initial shot was saved by the Worcester goalkeeper, he saw his second flick at the open goal deflected wide by a defenders leg.

A penalty stroke was duly awarded, and Tom Bulteel flicked the ball hard into the net to make it 1-0. Before the break, Hales were able to double their lead following a trademark counter attack. Paul Harrold

found himself one-on-one with the Worcester goalkeeper, when the midfielder missed the ball and it bounced its way past the stranded keeper into the goal.

Worcester started the second half the strongest and finally got a breakthrough from a penalty corner, which was dragged past the Hales defensive line. Worcester continued to pressurise the hosts defence, but it stood strong, and despite several penalty corners the visitors were unable to draw level.

Hales again struck as Paul Woodall, put the ball high into the net to make it 3-1.

## Honours are even in tight contest

**Halesowen 0 Sandwell 0**  
WITH both teams pushing for promotion meant it was going to be a tight affair. Both started brightly with no one giving any quarter.

Chances were rare from either side but Halesowen had an opening when Haley Chatwin was clear only for the ball to go wide. Sandwell hit the crossbar with a well-taken shot and the ball cannoned off and went out.

Yeltz' swift winger Sophie Richard also had a shot that went wide. Dominique McKee scored but the linesman ruled offside. Both teams played with edge and it could have gone either way.

Half time came and with a less hurried approach, a relaxed Halesowen seemed more in control of the game.

Sandwell hit the crossbar again off a corner but Halesowen had the best of the chances, hitting the upright and the visiting keeper was the busier player.

Manager Scott McKee said: "We were a bit panicky to start but once we relaxed we played well. But credit to Sandwell it's one of the toughest games so far for us."

Halesowen are at home this week to Santiago Belles 2pm kick off.

# Depleted Tivs fail to topple Roman wall

## Rochester FC 0 Tividale FC 0

**TIVIDALE had to settle with a point against The Romans of Rochester after not the greatest 90 plus minutes of football action.**

Tividale went into the game without club captain Richard Huckfield. With the management opting to rest him for the games to come and also in-form striker Nathan Waite.

He had not recovered from an injury picked up against Causeway United.

In a first half that had the start delayed by 15 minutes due to traffic problems on the way through Staffordshire, there was a distinct lack of any quality.

Tividale had plenty of possession but no cutting edge. While the home side played a counter attacking game but were never able to hold the ball long enough to exert any real pressure.

With both defences on top the closest anyone came to breaking the deadlock was when Tividale's Karl Edwards rattled the cross bar midway through the half.

On the whole the second half was only a slight improvement, with Tividale literally camped in the Rochester half but never really looking like getting around or through that Roman wall. While Rochester possibly had the best couple of chances of the half, there limited counter attacks. The best came from Tyrone Wilson with five minutes to go.

When a rare Tividale mix up in defence left Wilson with the goal at his mercy, but as Edwards did in the first half. He proceeded to hit the cross bar and the visitors scrambled clear.

## Football

### Wolverhampton Casuals FC 1 Tividale FC 4

With a mixture of youth and fringe players, Tividale were able to make 10 changes to the side that defeated Shepshed on Tuesday.

Tividale overcame Wolves Casuals with two goals each from teenagers Matt Morgan and Garfield Robinson and the result meant that Tividale go through to the JW Hunt Cup semi-final.

Casuals took the lead on 36 minutes when midfielder Nathan Jackson's looping header evaded Tividale keeper Jack Hayfield.

The second half was 12 minutes old when a deflected shot from youth player Morgan brought Tividale level. That and the introduction of substitute Ryan Winwood transformed Tividale and they added a second from a ball into the box leaving a tap-in for Morgan. The goal of the game came soon after when Robinson hit a screamer into the far corner. Robinson was on hand again to stroke home his second and Tividale's fourth.

A very good performance from the lads.

## Villa's blistering start turns in timid defeat



Stoke's Erik Pieters, right, and Villa's Yacouba Sylla battle for the ball during the home defeat for his team

### Villa 1 Stoke 4

From conquering Chelsea to a Stoke shocker, the last week has summed the season up for Villa.

It was just Stoke's second Premier League away win of the season but the hosts obliged their visitors, who leapfrogged them into 10th.

A blistering start – topped by Christian Benteke's early opener – folded into a powderpuff performance to hand the visitors their first

Villa Park victory since 1988. Consistency throughout games, let alone the season, has been an issue, no more so than against Stoke. It looked rosy after just five minutes when Benteke smashed in, following a neat turn and pass by Fabian Delph.

Villa were in control but Stoke grew in confidence and Peter Odemwingle's drive flew inches over after clipping Ron Vlaar. Then the Potters scored twice in four minutes. First,

Odemwingle levelled on 22 minutes when he held off Nathan Baker to roll under Brad Guzan after latching onto Peter Crouch's knockdown.

Then Crouch turned the game when he fired in Erik Pieters' cross from eight yards.

Three minutes before the break it went from bad to worse. Stoke strung 17 passes together and when Baker missed Marko Arnautovic's ball, Steven N'Zonzi drilled in.

## Blues tame Holloway's Lions side

### Millwall 2 Blues 3

BIRMINGHAM eased their relegation fears with a hard-earned 3-2 victory at Millwall.

Their first win in six matches came after goals from teenager Jordan Ibe, Andrew Shinnie and Nikola Zigic. Steve Morison had levelled Ibe's opener and substitute Simeon Jackson scored an 88th-minute penalty to give the Millwall faithful hope, but there was no way back for Ian Holloway's basement boys.

It means the Londoners have not won in six at home and have collected just a point from their last four matches, and with relegation rivals Charlton and Barnsley both winning, things are looking bleak.



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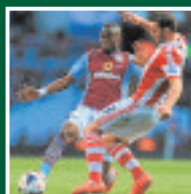
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# Express & Star





## Whiley set for second title win

HALESOWEN'S Jordanne Whiley is aiming for back-to-back ITF 1 Series titles on the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Tour at this week's Pensacola Open after securing victory in the women's doubles at the Cajun Classic in Baton Rouge.

British No. 1 Whiley won her second doubles title partnering South Africa's Kgoghatso Montjane and was also a quarter-finalist in the women's singles in Louisiana.

Whiley and Montjane, whose first title also came in the USA last September when they won the USTA Championships Super Series title, claimed a thrilling victory in Baton Rouge in a final that also featured Whiley's London 2012 bronze medal-winning partner Lucy Shuker.

The top seeds beat Shuker and Germany's Sabine Ellerbrock, the third seeds, with Whiley winning her fourth successive doubles title this season. Whiley and Montjane dropped just six games in two matches en route to the final.

World No. 6 Whiley was fifth seed for the women's singles and opened with a 6-2, 6-2 win over American Emmy Kaiser before taking German world No. 1 Ellerbrock to three sets in the quarter-finals, but Ellerbrock prevailed.

## Heathens are season ready

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger says his side have plenty in reserve for a successful season.

The Heathens launch their home programme back at Wolverhampton on Tuesday when they face Coventry in the Travel Plus Trophy.

And Pottinger believes the signings of Matt Williamson and Danny Phillips could prove crucial as the club look to defend their National League clean sweep. He said: "As we know, having at least one strong reserve is vital to any successful team but we feel that in Danny Phillips and Matt Williamson we've got two."

"We were slightly surprised Mildenhall didn't pick up Danny Phillips after he guested for them a few times last season so when we found out he was available we snapped him up straight away."

# Tipton let two-goal lead slip to share points

Loughborough 3 Tipton 3

TIPTON forged into a 3-1, unassailable lead it seemed, but the Students threw caution to the wind in the closing 20 minutes. In only the third minute visiting keeper and Man of the Match James Pemberton was called into action in turning a full-blooded drive by James Winchester over the top. Just five minutes more had elapsed when the Students took the lead Winchester again to the fore when he reacted quickest to control Keiran Kenlock's cross and leave the exposed Pemberton with no chance.

A 13th minute corner, conceded under

### Football

pressure by Joe Rogers was headed clear by Tipton's Lee Wherton.

However, the game undertook a twist in favour of the Black Country club when Andy Dicken robbed home skipper, Jack Beckett to set up an opportunity for Ben Hadley whose well-placed ground hugging drive was too good for home keeper, Hazlett, the ball zipping just inside the left hand post to tie up the scores.

Tipton were enthused with much greater commitment, this bearing fruit in the 25th

minute when Hadley, again, profited by nudging the ball over the home goal line after the keeper could do no more than parry Mensah Kinch's drive.

The Students began the second half with much more vigour, Wherton, Gator and Chris Waterhouse all being extended to deny the threats. After Tipton's Marvin Nisbett had threatened with a thrusting run in the 51st minute, visiting keeper, Pemberton starred by repelling two strong assaults.

Kinch thereafter tested the home keeper before giving way to sub Jordan Archer who

made an almost immediate impact for Tipton leaving full-back Minihan trailing in his wake before driving home to give Tipton a 3-1 lead.

It could have been game over but not a bit of it for Loughborough found untapped sources of energy and skill unluckily failing to reduce the arrears when a sharp break down the right opened up the visitors with Kenlock driving into the side netting

Questionable defending by Tipton was smartly punished by Kenlock before Tristan Dunkley tied up the scores at 3-3 on 77 mins.

# SOLID YELTZ SIDE CRUISE TO WIN

Market Drayton 0 Halesowen 3

**HALESOWEN** departed Shropshire with another win under their belt as they cruised past a strong but inconsistent Market Drayton side.

The victory was thanks to a trio of goals which came from the Yeltz players Aaron Griffiths and Ben Haseley who scored in separate halves of the game.

Halesowen made two changes as Mitch Botfield made his second appearance for the Yeltz side, as he took the place of the suspended Aaron Forde, and Mark Danks also made his debut where he was the replacement for Nigel Penney who was dropped to being a substitute on the bench.

The Yeltz showed their attacking threat early on, as lyseden Christie headed the ball just wide of the left post and Mitch Botfield's powerful shot flew over the top of the crossbar missing a chance to break the deadlock.

### Coping

Market Drayton were, however, coping with the force of Halesowen's attack as Neil Mackenzie's free kick was easily saved by Damian Stevens to keep the game scoreless.

Then Joe Hull's curling effort from an awkward angle was just knocked wide of the post by Sam Westray, and Kristian Green's individual effort, after running 60 yards with the ball, just went over the bar to keep the scoreline deadlocked.

The persistence of the Yeltz attack finally paid off for them though, as in the

### Football

37th minute, Mark Danks' cross flew towards Griffiths, who positioned himself perfectly to easily volley the ball into the net and give the Yeltz a well-deserved lead.

At the other end of the pitch, after 43 minutes of play, Market Drayton finally had their first chance at goal, as Yannick Makota's blazed over the bar and out of the ground into the nearby fields.

The second half was dominated by the Yeltz as Danks' shot was saved by Stevens. Then on 70 minutes, the Yeltz doubled their advantage as Haseley hit a cross into the box and Griffiths was there once again to volley the ball into the net and claim his second of the match.

The game entered its final stages, but Halesowen weren't finished.

Mackenzie hit a shot from some range and Stevens could only parry the ball to Haseley.

It was enough though for Haseley. He then poked the ball into the net to give Halesowen all three points and to put them four points clear at the top of the Division 1 North Table.



Halesowen's Neil Mackenzie and Joe Hull give chase to Market Drayton's Yannick Makota

## Swim club makes a big splash

HALESOWEN swimmers competed at the Worcester County Championship over three weekends during March producing impressive performances.

More than 50 swimmers from the club competed in nearly 400 events with seven going on to compete in 29 Championship finals. The swimmers produced an incredible 14 senior, 14 junior and 1 age group County titles and with 32 age group event winners, Halesowen swimmers enjoyed a very successful Championships.

Stand out Halesowen swimmers were Chloe Finch, Josh Bradley and Mark Laing who between them grabbed nearly half of all the Championship titles on offer.

Chloe Finch was impressive and secured seven senior titles and an amazing 12 junior titles. Josh Bradley won seven senior titles.

Mark Laing, aged 14, won two under-15 junior titles.

In the overall age group competition, Lauren Hill won the age 13 group, with runners-up in their age groups Mark Laing, James Cuthbert, Kate Morrice and age nine newcomer Jacob Bailey.

## Early bird sales flying at Wolves

WOLVES' promotion push has been reflected in a 14 per cent rise in Early Bird season ticket renewals.

A total of 10,308 supporters have bought their seats for next season, a rise of 1,272 on this time last year.

That figure represents an 88 per cent renewal rate, with the scheme open to 11,770.

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